

BOARD NOTES  
MAY 23, 2011

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, May 23, 2011 with all Board members present.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as written.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION**

- The Board recognized the students for the FBLA Gold Seal 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners at State competition. Certificates were presented to the members and sponsor, Julie Jerzak.
- Scott Braun presented information on the proposed IDOE Behavior & Discipline Plan which follows Senate Enrolled Act 1419. As part of the three-year process, schools are required to form a committee and begin developing a plan. During the first year, school corporations are to gather data.
- Sherry Bailey and Angie Hambling made a presentation on the new Common Core Standards. The new Common Core Standards will measure different levels of student mastery. Testing and assessments will be changed to meet the higher standards and will be aligned with college and work expectations. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, Kindergarten teachers will be required to utilize the Common Core Standards in their instruction. All grade levels will be incrementally phased in by the 2014-2015 school year.
- Marcia Kelly presented information on the Reading Framework initiative. All Indiana school corporations will be required to submit a reading plan to the IDOE by June, 2011. Schools will analyze current practices through the K-6 Reading Framework process. Students are required to have a 90-minute uninterrupted reading period daily. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, there will be an IRead test for third grade students. Students may not be promoted if they do not pass the test.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board adopted the Consent Items as follows:

- Minutes – April 25, 3011
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

### **CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
  1. Mary Hardy – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher – Prairie View Elementary – Retirement effective June 2, 2011-
  2. Jerry Colanese – Industrial Technology Teacher – Middle School – Retirement effective June 2, 2011
  3. Ann Otlewski – Spanish Teacher – ½ - High School – Retirement effective June 2, 2011
  4. Natalie Krause – Spanish Teacher – High School – Leave of Absence beginning August 11, 2011 through October 21, 2011
- Non-Renewal
  1. Non-Renewal of Teacher Contract – Lora Falkowsky - Effective June 2, 2011
- Employment/Transfers
  1. Camille Burns – Temporary Math Teacher – NPHS – Beginning approximately May 2, 2011 through June 2, 2011
  2. Judy Bubanovich – Homebound Teacher – Rolling Prairie Elementary School
  3. Tim Eldridge – Homebound Teacher – New Prairie High School

- Employment – Summer School  
(Approval of Summer School staff is based on appropriate classroom enrollment numbers)
  1. Judy Bubanovich – PLATO Summer School Teacher – NPHS/MS
  2. Gail Bannister – Exploratory Music – Middle School
  3. Gail Bannister – Assistant Instrumental Ensemble – NPHS – Approximately 60 hours
  4. Mark Belsaas – Instrumental Ensemble Director – NPHS – Approximately 106 hours
  
- 5. Driver's Education Instructors
  - Doug Snyder
  - Mark Belsaas
  - Brian Lindorf
  - Chris Grabowski
  - Mark McBride
  - Marty Mosson
  - Matt Flagg

**NON-CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
  1. Lloyd Wood – Transportation Director – Retirement effective September 23, 2011
  2. Nancy Niespodziany – Library Assistant – Olive Elementary School – Retirement effective June 1, 2011
  3. Debbie Dennis – Bus Driver – Resignation effective June 1, 2011
  
- Employment
  1. Rhonda Smoroske – Bus Assistant – A.M. route only – effective through the end of the 2010-2011 school year

Jim Dermody recognized the retirees for their years of service and dedication to the New Prairie Schools. Lloyd Wood said he appreciates working with this Board over the years. He is very proud to work with everyone. He has had great superintendents to work with and wanted to thank everyone for giving him these years. Rich Shail said Lloyd is very special to the corporation and it will be very hard to fill his shoes.

## **REPORTS**

- Superintendent's Report
  - The Activity Center has created a Facebook page and would like the Board to accept. Kregg VanMeter and Mark Norton have developed this page in order to promote the Center. This is a secured site.
  - Staff Updates – We are in the process of reviewing staffing and enrollment numbers. It is possible we may yet have to establish Reductions in Force based on enrollment or financial constraints. Ongoing communication with Association leadership is taking place.
  - 2011 Legislation – Many significant educational changes were enacted as a result of this year's legislative session. Our corporation will partner with all appropriate parties to implement these changes and focus on continued enhanced service to our students.
  - Cafeteria Projects – Rolling Prairie/High School – Work has begun at Rolling Prairie. Lunch is being served in the gym so workers could begin the project early. Keith said we have one issue with the generator which did not include technology. We will be looking into this. Keith said Casteel has been great to work with.
  - ISTEP results will be on-line, according to the IDOE, for parents to view beginning May 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - High School End of Core Assessments will begin on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Jim Holifield has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Association for School Principals. This is a three-year appointment.

- The New Prairie High School Girls' athletics have secured the All Conference Sports Award.
- The students' last day of school is June 1<sup>st</sup>. The teachers' last day is June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Northern Indiana Food Bank

Don Bayne of the New Carlisle Wesleyan Church has established a partnership between the NPUSC and the Food Bank of Indiana to provide bags of food every Friday for 25-30 selected elementary families. Lamb's Chapel has a similar program for families at Rolling Prairie Elementary.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- The Board accepted a donation from the Olive PTO for new books and CD's valued at \$250.
- The Board accepted the Global Grants Indiana Grant for New Prairie Middle School in the amount of \$1,000. The NPMS will establish a "Chinese Exhibit" promoting the relationship between the NPUSC and our sister school in Nantai.
- The Board approved the employment of Alexander Brandon as Assistant Principal at New Prairie High School effective July 1, 2011 for a two year period. Mr. Brandon comes from Griffith Middle School where he served as Social Studies teacher and several head coaching positions. Mr. Brandon said that he is excited to begin.
- The Board approved cafeteria bids as recommended by Tammy Watkins, Food Service Director.
- The Board approved the textbook adoption for Advanced Placement Biology, Human Geography and World History. The College Board has established guidelines that college level textbooks must be available for these students in the Advanced Placement courses. Mr. Dermody said these high level course offerings attract enrollment to the NPUSC and strengthen the existing curriculum.

- The Board accepted the “Tool Box” Education (Green) Grant from Lowe’s Charitable and Education Foundation for Rolling Prairie Elementary School for \$5,000. John Slater and the Conservation Club will use the money to install solar lighting on the parking lot security light poles. Bernie said he cannot say enough about these types of initiatives. Rich Shail said at Honeywell, they turned off half the lights in their offices which came from the Rolling Prairie students’ presentation at a Board meeting.
- The Board approved the Athletic Training Agreement with LaPorte Hospital for the NPUSC for the 2011-2012 school year.
- The Board approved the Student Handbooks for New Prairie High School, New Prairie Middle School, Elementary Schools – Olive, Prairie View and Rolling Prairie and the Athletic Handbook as submitted. Bernie would like to see how we can reduce the number of expelled students and provide them with alternative educational options. Clara Clark said that expulsion is always the last resort, but we are working with the LaPorte JDS where students attend classes and can still earn their credits. Bernie also asked about student athletes to be able to opt out of P.E. Clara said this is the first full year this was offered to students. Dale would like us to consider raising the athletic eligibility requirements. We will have the high school submit a report at our June meeting on student athletes’ grades for this past school year.
- The Board approved the Whiteboard bid notification and advertisement for the high school and elementary schools. Quotes will be gathered to assist the administration in determining the number of high school, and possibly elementary, classrooms that can be provided with this type of technology.
- The Board approved the textbook fees for the 2011-2012 school year as follows:
  - Kindergarten           \$60
  - Grades 1-2               \$80
  - Grades 3-5               \$99
  - Grades 6-8               \$131
  - Grades 9-12             Based on course selection
- The Board accepted a donation of \$750 from The Foundation in Support of Indiana University Health LaPorte Hospital for the NPHS Athletic Dept. for purchasing the ImPACT program which establishes a baseline testing program that will assist with the appropriate diagnosis and treatment of concussions when needed.

## **DISCUSSION**

- The Board reviewed the proposed Kindergarten Common Core Report Card for the 2011-2012 school year which meets the new guidelines adopted by the IDOE. Kindergarten teachers Becky Reider, Amy Burris and Krissy Surma developed the report card tool with the assistance of all NPUSC Kindergarten teachers. Dale Groves asked how the subject areas will be explained to parents. Mr. Dermody said with the Parent/Teacher Conferences re-instated, teachers hope to communicate with parents on the new standards.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Dale Groves would like to congratulate all our retirees. He would also like to thank the administrators and teachers for the work they do.
- Al Williamson would like to thank Lloyd Wood for everything he does. He would also like the administrators to convey to their teachers that he acknowledges what the corporation is losing with the retirees.
- Rich Shail told Lloyd that he has developed a high level of community relations over the years. There is a lot of respect for what you do for NPUSC. Bernie agrees.
- Bernie asked if Mr. Dermody had checked with the IDOE regarding the virtual schools program. Mr. Dermody said when he contacted the IDOE, they indicated they would not waive any days for any type of virtual school at this time.
- Rich said we are at the end of the school year and it was a great year. There are a lot of changes but very positive for the good of education for our students. He wanted to thank everyone for their efforts. He said teachers and administrators do not get paid enough to do what they do. He appreciates what you do.