

BOARD NOTES
June 27, 2011

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, June 27, 2011 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, Bernie Baltes and LuAnn Schwingendorf present. Dale Groves was absent. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as written.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Senator Jim Arnold and State Representative Tom Dermody presented an update on the 2011 Legislation.

Senator Arnold indicated that the 2011 Legislative session was very contentious. The adoption of the budget had to be addressed. Discussion of the effectiveness of public schools and their possible restructuring served as the key issue of the legislative session.

The budget was adopted; however, public schools did not receive everything they requested. Senator Arnold said he voted against Charter schools, evaluations, merit pay and contracts. He felt the legislators should have talked with school representatives prior to this. Legislators voted along party lines. He said much legislation will be resolved in court. Senator Arnold believes we need to be able to submit bills that are not associated with a partisanship.

- Representative Tom Dermody agrees that the partisanship needs to change. He said legislators were successful in eliminating the deghoster whereby the State was paying for students whom had transferred to another school corporation.

Representative Dermody indicated that they provided school corporations with additional options for health plans. They also addressed more jobs for students, along with following up on the 21st Century Scholarship program. There needed to be some reform with that program. They also added a GPA requirement for financial aid.

Bernie Baltes wanted to thank Senator Arnold and Rep. Tom Dermody for everything they do for our county. His concern with the voucher system is that everyone should play by the same rules. Charter schools can regulate

admissions, but public schools cannot. Rep. Dermody said they are required to use a lottery system, but Al Williamson is concerned who will monitor this.

Senator Arnold would welcome anyone to come and visit the legislators during the sessions. Rich Shail said he believes New Prairie has been well represented by Senator Arnold and Representative Dermody.

INFORMATION

- Mr. Dermody appreciates the Board's confidence as we proceeded with the purchase of the Promethean Boards. We have been able to achieve an excellent price on the purchase of 94 projectors and Promethean Boards. The goal is to provide Promethean boards for all the classrooms of the grade-level and core teachers. T & I mentors will be attending training to support their use. The Board is pleased to provide this type of equipment.
- 501(c)(3) Tax Deferred Status for the Activity Center

Keith Dennis indicated that we want to provide self funding for the Activity Center. We would like to allow Kregg VanMeter to move forward with fundraisers. Therefore, we need to obtain the tax deferred status. Rich Shail said the Board is comfortable with the process and to move forward on this.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – May 23, 2011
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Resignations/Retirements/Leaves
 1. Margo Bowen – Guidance Counselor – NPHS – Resignation effective June 10, 2011

2. Jennifer Gensic – Language Arts – NPHS – Resignation effective June 2, 2011
 3. Krissy Surma – Kdg. Teacher – Rolling Prairie Elementary – Leave of Absence beginning August 26, 2011 for approximately 6-8 weeks.
- Transfers
 1. Renee Mischak – 3rd Grade – Rolling Prairie – Transfer to Temporary T & I Mentor position for 2011-2012 school year
 2. Tara Bush – 4th Grade – Prairie View – Transfer to Temporary T & I Mentor position for the 2011-2012 school year
 - Transfers as a result of internal openings
 1. Jemiah Feece – Transfer to 1st Grade – Prairie View
 2. Jessica Feathers – Transfer to Temporary 4th Grade – Prairie View
 3. Monica Flagg – Transfer to 5th Grade – Prairie View
 4. Leanne Pease – Transfer to 2nd Grade – Prairie View
 5. Laura Palman – Transfer to 1st Grade - Olive
 6. Sara Serry – Transfer to 1st Grade – Rolling Prairie
 7. Jennifer Smith – Transfer to 6th Grade Language Arts
 8. Karen VanOverberghe – Transfer to 7th Grade Math/Science
 9. Lisa Smiertelny – Transfer to 2nd Grade – Rolling Prairie
 10. Sandra Murray – Transfer to full-time Spanish – NPHS (Sandra is returning from a half/time Sabbatical Leave during the 2010-2011 school year)
 - Employment
 1. Jacob Schleter – Industrial Arts – Middle School – Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year
 2. Angela Ruby – Guidance Counselor – NPHS – Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year
 3. Laurel Laughlin – Vocational Healthcare/PLTW-Biomedical teacher – NPHS – Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year
 - Employment – Extra-Curricular – 2011-2012 School Year
 1. Susan Koziel – Math Bowl – Prairie View Elementary
 2. Sandra Murray – Co-Pep Club Leader – NPHS

3. Sandra Murray – Co-Cheerleading Coach – NPHS
4. John Gensic – 7/8th Grade Assistant Boys Basketball
5. Allison Middlebrook – 1/3 Young Astronauts – Olive
6. Ashley Wojtysiak – Co-PL221 Chair – Olive
7. Casey Gumm – Co-PL221 Chair – Olive
8. Jeff Meinhard – Co-Team Leader – 6th Grade
9. Nicole McClure – Math Bowl – Rolling Prairie Elementary
10. Debbie Varga – Key Club – NPHS
11. Karen VanOverberghe – 7/8th Grade Assistant Volleyball

NON-CERTIFIED

- Resignations/Retirements/Leaves
 1. Sharon Heirbrandt – Financial Services – Central Office – Retirement Effective August 31, 2011
 2. Laurie Lanning – Health Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary – Resignation effective May 31, 2011
- Employment/Transfers
 1. Brenda Gorny – Bus Driver – Transfer to HS/RP Double route effective with the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year
- Employment – Extra-Curricular for the 2011-2012 school year
 1. Shaun Prestin – 6th Grade Assistant Volleyball
 2. Shari Rose – Co-Pep Club Leader – NPHS
 3. Shari Rose – Co-Cheerleading Coach – NPHS
 4. Brent Campos – Head 6th Grade Volleyball
 5. Rhonda Smoroske – Co-Yearbook Sponsor – NPMS
 6. Heather Alva – Co-Yearbook Sponsor – NPMS
 7. Zach Blackwood – Assistant Boys Swim Coach – NPHS
 8. Kristen Foley – Poms Sponsor – NPHS
 9. Kristen Kleist – Co-Cheerleading Coach – NPMS
 10. Elisabeth Roush – Co-Cheerleading Coach – NPMS
 11. Ben Anderson – Assistant Volleyball Coach – NPHS
 12. Shari Rose – Junior Class Sponsor
 13. Kevin Moser – Dive Coach – NPHS
 14. Sara Adkins – Co-Swim Coach – NPMS
 15. Ben Anderson – 8th Grade Boys Basketball
 16. John Arndt – Head Boys Cross Country – NPHS
 17. Katelyn Grabarek – Head Boys Tennis – NPHS
 18. Teresa Hostetler – Assistant Boys Tennis – NPHS
 19. Greg Hulbert – Audio/Visual Club – NPHS

- 20. Susan Brasseur – PL 221 Chair - NPHS
- 21. Jessica Bealor – Co-Flags Sponsor – NPHS
- 22. Ellyn Koselke – Co-Flags Sponsor – NPHS
- 23. Craig Kuta – Head Girls Golf
- 24. Craig Kuta – Head Boys Golf

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody indicated that we are in week #2 of the China trip for the NPMS travelers. They will be going to Beijing and set to return home on July 1st.
 - Mr. Dermody recognized the five Olive students selected by Leadership LaPorte County for attendance at a leadership camp. Alison Middlebrook is their sponsor.
 - Mr. Dermody indicated that we are currently monitoring enrollment. Due to our retirements and teacher mentor positions, a teacher reduction for 2011-2012 will not be recommended. We have worked closely with the Association and will act on increased staff needs if enrollment warrants.
 - The Olive Student Council donated \$2,463.96 to Riley Children's Center in Indianapolis.
 - Keith Dennis gave an update on the NPHS/Rolling Prairie Remodeling Project as follows:
 - Working well with contractors
 - Originally, we planned to just strip the ceramic tile, but due to previous construction, we could not do so without tearing up the sub-floor. The whole floor had to be torn up.
 - Change Orders:
 - Dry storage rooms – decided to install resinous
 - Re-locate the generator at Rolling Prairie because it was in the fire lane
 - Replace the slab at Rolling Prairie and High School
 - Office at High School – had a small table and we are putting in a counter
 - Delete \$8,000 for storm drains – it can be repaired without tearing up the floors
 - Grease waste pipes change
 - Determined not to reuse existing air handlers

- Installation of water fountain in cafeteria at Rolling Prairie due to federal law requirements
 - High School electrical conduits were placed in the slabs – had to be changed
 - Sanitary sewer line – bottom of pipe section was deteriorated
 - Added some items to the generator load
- Mr. Dermody advised that there will be an Administrative Staff Retreat on July 19th centered on leadership.
- Mr. Dermody advised that he will report on the 2011 academic performance of all NPHS extra-curricular participants at the July meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the extension of the lease for the Activity Center with Quest Development for a period of one year at the current monthly fee.
- The Board accepted the donation from Feed the Children valued at \$420.96.
- The Board approved the contract for the Director of Finance and Capital Projects as agreed upon for one year.

DISCUSSION

- Mr. Dermody was notified that due to the dissolution of the LaPorte County Schools which is now the Tri-Township School Corporation, the area LaPorte county schools will no longer have access to an Attendance Officer originally funded by the LaPorte County Schools. Mr. Dermody said with the ramifications of attendance in AYP and NCLB criterion, he feels it is imperative to secure a part-time Attendance Officer. This position would be for a tentative 2 ½ days per week schedule. He would like permission to post this position which could be budgeted. The Board granted permission to advertise for this position.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Al Williamson wanted to thank Keith Dennis for what he has done for the corporation.

- Bernie Baltes would like to commend the students for their work with the LaPorte Leadership group. This is a great opportunity for students.
- Bernie would like to commend the Grounds Personnel for the condition of the facilities for graduation.
- Bernie would like to commend Mr. Dermody and the Association for working together for the betterment of the corporation.
- Rich Shail said he is very excited about the Promethean board purchases. He has heard a lot of excitement from a number of teachers in the community. We are doing the right thing. One of his main goals as a Board member has been to advance the use of technology throughout the corporation.
- Rich Shail wanted the Association to know that we will work together with them through this current legislation. We will do this together.