

BOARD NOTES

AUGUST 15, 2011

The regular meeting of the School Board of Trustees was held on Monday, August 15, 2011 with all Board members present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Mr. Dermody was notified by the ISBA that the New Prairie Board of School Trustees received Outstanding Status as a Board. Mr. Dermody congratulated the Board for their contribution to our Culture of Excellence.

On a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf, the Board meeting was suspended for the Budget Hearing.

BUDGET HEARING

- Keith Dennis presented the 2012 Budget. He advised the Board that the goal was to match the current revenues with the current expenditures. We reduced appropriations this year so we can increase it next year. We protected ourselves last year because we were not sure of the direction of the State. Projected enrollment is 2710.5. Overall enrollment today is 2742.5. Enrollment last year was 2706. We will receive a slight decrease in ADM funding from \$5,144.71 to \$5,058.66.

Mr. Dennis also reviewed the Capital Projects Fund Budget which includes routine maintenance such as asphalt, curbs, snow, roof, trash, etc., as well as copier rental, technology maintenance and software, utilities and insurance, technology salaries and the Director of Finance and Capital Expenditures compensation. Some planned projects include an emergency generator at Rolling Prairie, core switch equipment, IDF air conditioner at Olive, mobile labs at the three elementary schools and a domestic well for the main campus.

Mr Dennis also reviewed the Bus Replacement Fund which includes replacing five buses in 2012 consistent with new DLGF guidelines. All buses are being replaced on a 12-year cycle.

There were no comments from the public.

On a motion by Groves, seconded by Williamson, the regular meeting resumed.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- Minutes – July 25, 2011
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Leifschon Walker – 3rd Grade Teacher – Olive Elementary School – Leave of absence beginning October 24, 2011 through January 19, 2012.
 2. Kim Zahrt – Physics Teacher – NPHS – Leave of absence beginning August 11, 2011 through November 3, 2011.
- Employment
 1. Kari McLaughlin – Temporary 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher – NPMS – beginning August 11, 2011 and continuing through October 28, 2011.
 2. Williams Pinto – Temporary Spanish Teacher – NPHS – Beginning August 11, 2011 and continuing through October 24, 2011.
 3. Bruce Bergeron – Temporary Physics Teacher – NPHS – Beginning August 11, 2011 and continuing November 3, 2011.
- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Karen VanOverberghe – Freshman Volleyball

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Penny Melton – Instructional Assistant – Olive – Retirement effective July 14, 2011
 2. Debbie Keldsen – Lunchroom Assistant – Olive – Resignation effective August 8, 2011

- Employment
 1. Brandin Danielson – Health Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Beginning August 12, 2011.
 2. Catherine Henning – Library Assistant – Olive Elementary School – Beginning August 15, 2011
 3. Sharon Coffman – Bus Driver – Olive Special Education Route – Beginning August 15, 2011

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Bill Gumm – Assistant Football – NPHS
 2. Bobby Whitenack – Assistant Football – NPHS
 3. Larry Szczechowski – Assistant Football - NPHS

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody reported that everything went well for the first day of school. While visiting the schools, he noticed a large number of Promethean boards in use by staff.
 - At this time, preliminary enrollment indicates an increase of +50 students from last year's ME count. Many are transfer students which are estimated at 190.
 - Over 100 staff members participated in the Promethean training. The goal is to train every staff member. Mark Norton and his technology crew worked diligently during the summer and weekends to complete the installments by August 18, 2011.
 - The updated Vision and Mission statement will be released soon. This update was reviewed by Board members, administrative staff and Association representatives.
 - We have filled the third grade position at Rolling Prairie due to enrollment.
 - Mr. Dermody wanted to commend Greg Dudeck and Keith Dennis for their efforts in the kitchen remodeling projects. They kept on top of this project. However, Tammy Watkins and her staff have gone above and beyond to ensure the project's completion.

Dale Groves said he noticed that some of the non-core teachers did not have Promethean boards for their use. Mr. Dermody advised that the elementary schools are utilizing the mobile labs for their use.

- NP 2011 AYP/PL221 Determination Report

Mr. Dermody reviewed the 2011 AYP/PL 221 results. He said this is a team effort working for the betterment of our students. Mr. Dermody advised that Olive, Prairie View, Rolling Prairie and New Prairie High School achieved AYP. The Middle School did not meet AYP due to Free & Reduced and Special Education results. Olive, Prairie View, Rolling Prairie and New Prairie High School received Exemplary Progress under PL221 results. The Middle School was placed on Academic Watch. NPUSC also received Exemplary Progress.

Mr. Baltus wanted to commend the corporation for their efforts. Rich Shail said on behalf of this Board, you did a great job and he expects the excellent work to continue. He said what you do every day is over and above the call of duty.

- Construction Report – HS/RP Kitchen Project

Keith Dennis wanted to commend Casteel Construction for their efforts during this project. He said they were here at 6:00 a.m. Monday to be sure everything was completed. He also wanted to thank Ed Sawa of Fanning/Howey for his efforts.

Some additional change orders are necessary as listed:

- Switch out acoustical tile
- Re-locate some gas piping at Rolling Prairie
- Close an existing louver at Rolling Prairie
- Took a deduction for incorrect color tile
- Switch two hose reels in the kitchen
- Data Cables – Had the contractor do this rather than our tech people
- Ovens ordered at 208 voltage – had to switch to get the right voltage
- Electrical panel timer running the outside lights which was a code violation

The generator at Rolling Prairie has not been completed. It should be here any day. We also have to start up the make-up unit in the kitchen area.

Keith said it was a great team to work with.

- Mr. Dermody said there was an additional achievement at the high school. Biology is not measured for AYP. The State raised the cut score to 46% and the High School raised their performance 15% from 2010 to 64%.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie read an article on dual credits which indicated that 25,000 students are enrolled saving \$2.2 million to families. He wants to congratulate our staff and administration for maintaining this program. We have increased our offerings from two to nine college placement courses this year
- Bernie also read about kudos to the South Bend Schools for their Activity Center program. We have had one for several years and feels we are a step ahead of them.
- Bernie acknowledged the nice article in the paper about Jerry Colanese and the work he does for our students with corn detassling.
- LuAnn wanted to congratulate the staff and administration for the test scores and getting schools up and running. She wanted to thank everyone for their hard work.
- Dale Groves said one reason New Prairie is a great place to educate your children is the families we have in our district. His family went to the Olive stroll and there were many teachers and the administration visible in the building. He can't stress how important it is for our families to have that type of contact. He appreciates that. He wants to thank our teachers and administration that helped make that day a success. These scores do not come by accident. We have a very dedicated staff.
- Dale said he also attended the opening day breakfast and appreciated the opportunity to speak to the staff.
- Al Williamson said we have great families in the community. We also have great families here in the classrooms and the schools. He told Jim Holifield that he knows they have some work to do, but we will support you 100% of the way. We are there with you.
- Al also wanted to thank Keith Dennis for what he does.
- Rich wanted to welcome everyone back and to have a great year.