

BOARD NOTES
February 28, 2012

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, February 27, 2012 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Dale Groves present. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board approved the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- The School Board recognized Prairie View and Rolling Prairie Elementary Schools who qualified for the IDOE Indiana Four-Star School Award. Mr. Dermody said this is an honor for all students, staff, and school community members who worked hard to achieve this status. Only 162 schools of a possible 1,780 Indiana schools earned this award. Angie Hambling wanted to thank the staff at Rolling Prairie for their efforts as well as recognizing Prairie View Elementary School. She also wanted to thank the Board and administration for their support. Marcia Kelly also wanted to thank her staff and recognize Rolling Prairie as well. She said it takes everyone's arms around each other to reach this status. Rich Shail said it is because of everyone here the Board's job is so easy. The Board has made unified decisions because they have been given good things to decide on. It starts with the classroom teachers, assistants and other staff members. He is proud to represent this corporation. He wanted to thank everyone for what they do.
- Mr. Dermody advised that Tammy Doucette, the Rolling Prairie patron who nominated the school for the Target Grand Award, was not able to attend the meeting tonight, so we will postpone recognition of the Target Award until the March meeting. Angie Hambling advised that they have received input from the staff and community to determine the best use of the grant money. They are focusing on three areas: (1) Activity Center; (2) technology for students and staff; (3) tutoring and experience activities for students. They will be finalizing their recommendations in the near future.
- The Middle School presented School Technology utilized in their building. Jim Holifield advised that February 1st was declared Digital Learning Day through the IDOE. The condensed version prepared by Tim West was placed on the IDOE website. Tim West and Susan French introduced their CSSN students who discussed their responsibilities in the newsroom.

Rich Shail said it was his vision when he ran for School Board to increase technology in the NPUSC. The mission has been accomplished. He said it makes him proud to see students and staff using technology every day. Bernie wanted to commend the students for their presentation.

Mr. Dermody said there is such a team camaraderie here. For everyone here to take time out of their busy schedules to attend tonight speaks highly of each of you.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – January 23, 2012
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Resignations/Retirements/Leaves
 1. Marcia Kelly – Principal – Prairie View Elementary School – Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
 2. Josh Bolakowski – Resignation as Assistant Wrestling Coach – NPMS – 2011-2012 school year
 3. Dan Shead – Resignation as Head Girls Basketball Coach – NPHS – effective with the start of the 2012-2013 school year
- Employment
 1. Tammy Moore – Homebound Teacher for Prairie View student – effective immediately.

NON-CERTIFIED

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Kristen Freitag – Co-8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
 2. Doug Matthys – Co-8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
 3. Kevin Moser – Assistant Swim Coach - NPMS

Mr. Dermody recognized Dan Shead who will be retiring as Head Girls Basketball Coach at NPH effective immediately. Mr. Shead served as an assistant coach in various capacities from 1977 through 1984. Dan became the Head Boys Basketball Coach from 1984-1992. In 1992, Dan assumed the position of Head Girls Basketball until 2012. Mr. Shead stands for everything that is right for students. His retirement from coaching will be a big loss as he showed a selfless dedication to our athletes. He also ends his career by obtaining a Conference Championship for New Prairie. Bernie said you will not find anyone that put in more time and effort into a program than Dan Shead.

Mr. Dermody also recognized Marcia Kelly who will be retiring as Principal of Prairie View Elementary at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Marcia had been a teacher and administrator from 1975-2005 in both South Bend and Florida. In 2005, Marcia was hired as Principal of Prairie View Elementary School. Marcia deserves recognition for her leadership that resulted in Prairie View receiving Four-Star recognition for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Board wanted to congratulate both Marcia Kelly and Dan Shead.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- We are concluding the winter sports season. The Girls' Basketball Team shared a three-way tie in the NSC and the Boys' Swim Team was NSC Champions.
- We will hold a Professional Development activity for all staff on March 5th. The Teacher Appraisal Committee will review their progress to meet the new SEA 1 guidelines.
- The ISTEP+ testing window begins March 5th and will continue for two weeks.
- March 19-21 is the new IREAD testing window.
- The Outside District Student Transfer process will begin on March 1 of this week.
- At the March Board meeting, we will present some summer school options. The options will be affected by available funding.
- Tim West's technology presentation is on the IDOE website in a YouTube format. Tim did a great job.
- Our liability insurance for 2012 will increase by approximately \$30,000 which is about a 10% increase.
- The NPUSC will be participating in the NWS Severe Weather Drill in March 2012.
- Chris Gesse, teacher at Prairie View, was recognized by Ball State University for her lesson plan on differentiated instruction which will be included in a Ball State textbook.
- The NPUSC will be participating in "Read across America" on Friday March 2nd.
- On February 29th, McDonald's East in LaPorte has partnered with NPMS to donate 15% of every meal to the mentor program.
- Molly McFadden, 7th grade student, has qualified for the State Geography Bee on March 30th.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the overnight field trip requests as follows:
 - FBLA Leadership Conference – March 16-18, 2012 – Indianapolis, IN
 - NPHS Show Choir – March 23-24, 2012 – Ellettsville, IN
 - Olive Young Astronauts – May 11-13, 2012 – Huntsville, Alabama
- The Board approved the Driver's Education Program for 2012. Student fees will be set at \$385 if a minimum of 101 students are enrolled and \$400 if enrollment is less than 100 students. The teacher salary will remain at \$26.00 per hour.
- The Board approved the employment of Kelley Kitchen as Chief Financial Officer/Corporation Treasurer effective July 1, 2012. Mr. Dermody recommended that the current Treasurer position vacated by the retirement of Sharon Heirbrandt be combined with the position of Chief Financial Officer which will be vacated by the retirement of Keith Dennis on June 30, 2012.
- The Board approved the addition of a Director of Curriculum/Evaluation position for the NPUSC effective with the start of the 2012-2013 school year. This position is being recommended in lieu of hiring a new Corporation Treasurer due to the significant increase in Senate Enrolled Act 1 evaluation duties on the part of our administrative team and the pending establishment of the Common Core standards as the foundation for the NPUSC curriculum. The Director of Curriculum/Evaluation would lead and monitor Corporation initiatives and processes in these two areas currently assigned to building principals. The Director will also actively participate in the completion of staff appraisals. The principals' ability to complete these duties will become extremely difficult because of the newly added responsibilities beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.
- The Board accepted the second reading and approval of Board Policies – Volume #23, No. 1 – 0142.3, 0167, 2260, 2260.01, 3122, 3217, 4122, 4217, 5111.01, 5111.02, 5463, 5630.01, 5772, 6150, 7217, 8450, 9160 and 9270. The Board also approved Policy #5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students as amended and remain as originally stated: Page 4, last paragraph, "The Superintendent **may** grant or deny any and all transfer requests in accordance with the criteria herein and the established administrative guidelines."
- The Board approved the 2012-2013 School Calendar as presented. A copy will be available to staff within the next few days. The first teacher day will be August 9, 2012 and the last teacher day will be May 23, 2013 unless the school year would be extended due to inclement weather cancellations. Winter Recess will begin December 24, 2012 with teachers returning on January 4th. Mr. Dermody would like to thank Kelle Cartwright, Mark McBride, Jenny Hite, and Kristina Pentelow for serving on the Advisory Committee.

- The Board approved the contract with NIES Engineering for the potable water well project at NPHS based on an hourly basis not to exceed \$6,000.
- The Board also approved the contract with Alutiiq International for the Lead and Seed Training Program at New Prairie Middle School. The \$6,000 fee will be paid through the Drug Free Grant monies. There is no cost to the corporation for this training.

DISCUSSION Items

- The following policies were introduced for first reading: Volume 23, No 2 - #0100, 0160, 1411, 1613, 1615, 2370, 2460, 3211, 3213, 3215, 4211, 4213, 4215, 5120, 5320, 5512, 6460, 6550, 7434, 7540.03, 7540.04, 7540, 8600, 9150, and 9160.

Bernie had a question on Policy #2370 – Page 1 – Eligibility for Distance Learning, Bernie requested a definition of a situation that would prevent any student from participating in the program. Mr. Dermody said this policy merely lays the groundwork for any on-line program we would like to institute in the future. We did not have this in a policy previously. This gives us flexibility. The legislation is considering the mandating of on-line classes in the future.

Bernie also had a question on Policy #4213 – Student Supervision and Welfare – Page 2, Section G. He expressed concerns because of the positive role mentors and coaches often play with students. Mr. Dermody said this language reflects our current policy. Rich said he does not see this as something bad. It is protecting our staff. You can talk to students, but you should refer that student to a professional if appropriate.

Rich said if any Board member has any further questions, they can contact Mr. Dermody or we can schedule a worksession to discuss these policies further.

Bernie asked why there are policies for each employment group which duplicates each policy. Dale feels this is a legal protection for the corporation.

Mr. Dermody pointed out that Board Policy #4213 provides improved clarity about the use of technology. Administration feels this situation must be addressed at this time because areas such as Facebook were not clearly defined previously.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Al Williamson wanted to recognize Sherry Bailey and Olive Elementary. The Board did not want to leave them out as they are also doing wonderful things at their building. Al wanted to congratulate Angie Hambling and Marcia Kelley for doing a great job in the buildings. Al said he was sad when Angie left Prairie View, but he is glad now. He served on the interview team for Prairie View and will miss Marcia. The Middle School did a great job with technology as well.
- Bernie concurs with Al's comments. He reads about other corporations initiating programs that New Prairie has had for some time.
- Bernie wanted to initiate discussion in the near future on wind energy. There are three corporations in the state that have initiated this type of energy. Mr. Dermody said the administration is working on some energy options and will make a presentation to the board in the near future.
- LuAnn would also like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication. She said we will miss Marcia.