

BOARD NOTES
April 23, 2012

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, April 23, 2012 with Rich Shail, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Al Williamson and Bernie Baltes present. Dale Groves was absent. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

All Williamson made a motion to amend the agenda to withdraw items D & E and accept the change to Personnel. LuAnn Schwingendorf seconded the motion. Bernie Baltes made the motion to adopt the agenda with the amendment and LuAnn Schwingendorf seconded the motion. I

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Certificates were presented to the FBLA students for the top honors they accomplished at the state competition. We had 23 students compete this year. We also have 2 students who will be state officers next year. They are Steven Kos, State Vice President; Kyle Kenyon, State Treasurer. The students who placed first and received a certificate from the Board were Jacob Bromley, Stephanie Brown, Nathan Hynek, Abbey Jones, Samantha Jones, Kyle Kenyon, Steven Kos and Dylan Michiaels.

Mr. Dermody also expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Jerzak for the hard work she puts into this program and her students. He also pointed out to the Board that the CTE Monthly Newsletter has a nice article about New Prairie High School's FBLA program. For the past 10 years, New Prairie FBLA has been awarded Indiana's Gold Seal Chapter.

- Mr. Hobart and Ms Hauck were introduced as our Robotics sponsors. They provided information regarding the program and introduced 3 students, Zac Donathen, Deanna Jack and Bryce Doorn who talked about their year of preparing for competitions. They experienced some trials at the beginning, learned from them, and did a very good job at the final competition. This year the team had the best finish it has had since it started 6 years ago.

Bernie Baltes commended both of the teams: Robotics and FBLA for jobs well done.

- Marcia Kelly thanked the board for approving the Balanced Literacy program. It has improved our students' scores tremendously this year.

She then introduced Melissa Kobitz who explained how the teachers are using this program to help increase student test scores. All of the elementary teachers have adopted this program into their teaching styles to engage students in individual and group reading assignments with an emphasis on writing, and includes a variety of reading genres. Melissa also introduced Amy Surma from Rolling and Rachel Ralston from Olive whom are very active in the Balanced Literacy Program at their schools.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as amended:
 - Minutes – March 26, 2012
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Mark Belsaas – Instrumental Music Teacher & Band Director– NPHS/MS - Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
 2. Nicole Bowen – P.E. Teacher – NPMS – Leave of Absence beginning approximately May 11, 2012 and continuing until January, 2013.
 3. Chris Cortier – Language Arts Teacher – NPHS – Leave of Absence effective immediately and continuing through the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
 4. Chris Cortier – Language Arts Teacher – NPHS – Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Amy Mullen – Corporation Nurse – Resignation effective April 13, 2012.
 2. Betty Hedington – Food Service – Olive - Leave of Absence beginning March 26, 2012 and continuing for approximately 4-6 weeks.

3. Bonnie Shepherd – Custodian – Rolling Prairie - Resignation effective March 26, 2012.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody recognized Amy Mullen for her hard work with the corporation for the last 13 ½ years. She has done an excellent job of maintaining all of the health records and staying on top of all of the state and federal mandates. She has moved out of the area, but we wish her well. He also congratulated Mark Belsaas and Chris Cortier in their retirement. Mark has been with New Prairie since school year '85-'86. He has a total of 40 years experience teaching. Mark has also been a mentor to beginning/part-time teachers, taught summer and drivers' education for most of the years he has taught. Mark also found time to coach golf. Mr. Dermody thanked him for all of his extra time and effort at New Prairie. Chris Cortier has 41 years experience at New Prairie and at teaching. She has given many extra hours to our students by teaching summer school, coaching track and volleyball, being a freshman class sponsor and being our gifted and talented sponsor at the high school for many years. Chris also taught adult education and was a high school building coordinator/liaison. Mr. Dermody expressed appreciation to Mrs. Cortier for her service to New Prairie students.
 - Mr. Dermody also talked about the pamphlet we have promoting our school corporation. We owe Kregg VanMeter a lot of gratitude for putting this together for us.
 - Mr. Dermody also recognized Jim Holifield and Scott Braun. Jim was recognized as the District 2 Principal of the Year and Scott was recognized as the District 2 Assistant Principal of the Year.
 - The US State Department of Education has granted us another teacher year for the Mandarin Chinese program. We will be able to continue our program and offer Mandarin 3 at the high school next year. Mr. Holifield will be going to Washington D.C. with all expenses paid, for training in this program. Susan French will also be going in August for training. May 12-19 we will have 16 delegates from China coming to New Prairie. There will be 5 adults and 11 students.

- Our Middle School also raised \$800 for the tornado struck schools in Southern Indiana. Thanks went out to the staff and students for their hard work, including a special recognition to Tammy Moore.
- Ashley Wojtysiak was recognized for being one of the top 5 teachers in the state of Indiana in the Adventure to Fitness program. She will have a Skype visit with Mr. Marc on May 10th.
- Angie Hambling recognized Pat and Dave Davis for adopting Rolling Prairie Elementary School. They have made many donations to the school of both monetary and individual items. They also have paid half of the cost of the meal that the 5th grade class takes to a local restaurant to complete their Manners Class.
- Kelley Kitchen also described the vendor process selection we went through for our banking services. Five institutions bid and Wells Fargo and LaPorte Savings Bank were chosen.
- Mr. Dermody also explained the process of the ISTEP+ and ECA tests that are going to be taken soon. ISTEP+ testing will start the second round next Monday, April 30 and last 2 weeks. He thanked Mark Norton, Barb Hart and the technology department for the hard work they have put forth to have a successful testing process.
- Coordinated School Health Advisory Council Report

Keith Dennis reported on the process the committee has put forth this year. They met three times this year. Indiana code requires School Boards to establish this council and have one meeting per year where public input is permitted. Keith Dennis and Tammy Watkins briefly went over the new guidelines and stated how we are meeting these guidelines. Rich Shail opened the floor for public comment as per state statute. Bernie Baltes stated that we need to continue the physical activity part of this. He also asked about using homegrown products. Tammy is looking into this in more detail. She stated that we are using some homegrown products already through her vendors who purchase locally and pass that on to us. Mr. Dermody commended Keith, Tammy and all of the committee for their hard work in putting this together.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the school lunch prices for the 2012-2013 school year based on the new Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act which became effective July 1, 2011. These guidelines stipulate that lunch prices must

meet the same level of support as the National School Lunch Program. Therefore, all lunch prices will be increased by 10 cents as follows:

- Elementary Breakfast \$1.20
- Elementary Lunch \$1.80
- MS/HS Breakfast \$1.20
- MS/HS Lunch \$2.05
- Milk \$.50
- Adult Breakfast \$1.50
- Adult Lunch \$2.90

- The Board approved the 2nd reading and adopted Board Policies –Volume 24, No.1 - #0142, 0142.3, 0144.4, 0167.5, 1422.02, 1460, 1461, 1520, 1521, 1530, 1623, 2260.01, 3121, 3122.02, 3123, 3124, 3160, 3161, 4121, 4122.02, 4123, 4160, 4161, 4220, 5200, 8121, and 9160 as presented. Policy #0144.3 was approved as amended.
- The Board accepted the donation from the Feed the Children program for books and supplies valued at \$1,946.94.
- The Board approved the hiring of Carrie Cannon as Director of Curriculum/Evaluation effective July 1, 2012. Mrs. Cannon comes to us from Plymouth Schools where she currently serves as the Corporation Curriculum Director Intern. She was introduced to everyone and welcomed by Mr. Dermody and the Board.
- The Board approved the request for field improvements made by the New Prairie Little League. Bernie Baltes stated he didn't care if they put in a cement or wood floor, whichever was most cost effective for them.
- The Board approved the resolution to allow the Director of Food Services to close old patron accounts and move the balances. This also allows the school treasures to cancel any balances remaining in the textbook accounts for free and reduced students.
- The Board approved the overnight field trip request for the FBLA to attend the National Leadership Competition in San Antonio, Texas from June 29-July 2, 2012. This conference may offer some of our students the possibility of obtaining scholarships.

DISCUSSION

- Brian Williamson explained the Slam Dunk Marketing Proposal to the Board. The company would install a scrolling sign in the main gym. The sign would have advertising on it from local businesses. There is no cost to the New Prairie School Corporation. After the company's cost is covered by the advertisements, the NPUSC keeps 50% of the profits.

They maintain the sign and keep up on the advertisements. We can decide later to have a second sign if we wish. The Board liked this idea and asked Mr. Williamson to bring it back in May for approval.

- The Board had the first reading of Policy #5421 – Modification to Grading Scale. Ben Ingram and Angie Hambling co-chaired the Grading Scale Committee to address the possible revision/adjustments to the current grading scale in an effort to provide fair, competitive opportunities for our students and meet the scales of surrounding high achieving school districts. New Prairie students' opportunities have been limited compared to other Indiana school corporation students due to a lower grade point average as a result of our current grading scale which negatively impacts entrance into post secondary institutions and competition for grants and scholarships.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Al Williamson thought tonight's meeting was very productive and thanked the administrators and staff members for doing a good job.
- Bernie commended Angie on the tour of Rolling Prairie Elementary School to the class of 1960. He wanted all coaches, extra and co-curricular, to know how influential they are on a child's life. He also wanted to thank all of the administrators and staff members for the great job they do.
- LuAnn Schwingendorf also wanted to thank all of the administrators and staff members for the jobs they do.
- Rich Shail stated he and Bernie Baltus went to ISBA. New policies would be coming forth for schools.