

BOARD NOTES
May 21, 2012

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, May 21, 2012 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Dale Groves present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Kindergarten teachers Dedrae Smiley, Krissy Surma and Cassie Pavey from Rolling Prairie Elementary School demonstrated the use of technology in the classroom with the assistance from a few of their students. Kindergarten teachers have been utilizing keyboarding this year. The Board is pleased with the interaction of technology with the students.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Bob Rentschler – Guidance Counselor – NPMS – Retirement effective June 1, 2012.
 2. Becky Gaff – Language Arts Teacher – NPMS – Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
 3. Doug Gaff – Science Teacher – NPMS – Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

4. Mark Belsaas – Instrumental Band – NPHS/MS – Extend retirement date to July 17, 2012.

5. Josh Bolakowski – Assistant Football – NPHS

▪ Employment

1. Tiffany Galus – Instrumental Band Director – NPHS/MS

▪ Employment – Summer School

****All summer school positions are based on minimum enrollment requirements.**

1. Sharon Bashaw – IREAD Remediation

2. Cheryl Pumroy – Instructional Assistant for IREAD

3. Judy Bubanovich – PLATO

4. Gail Bannister – NPMS Exploring Music

5. Gail Bannister – Assistant Band Director – 60 hrs.

6. Tiffany Galus - Instrumental Band Director – 106 hrs.

▪ Employment – Driver's Education

1. Mark McBride

2. Mark Belsaas

3. Matt Flagg

4. John Grabowski

5. Brian Lindorf

6. Marty Mosson

7. Larry Szczechowski

8. Doug Snyder

▪ Transfer

1. Jennifer Smith – Middle School – Transfer to 8th Grade Language Arts

2. Brad Phillips – Transfer to Full-time Social Studies, Composition and 6th Grade Literature

3. Lori Rose – 6th Grade Science – 6th Grade Math – Transfer to 7th Grade Science

- Transfer –Elementary Schools

Olive

1. Leifschon Walker – Transfer from 3rd Grade to Kindergarten
2. Laura Palman – Transfer from 1st Grade to 2nd Grade
3. Patty Sardeson – Transfer from 2nd Grade to 3rd Grade
4. Casey Gumm – Transfer from High Ability/Remediation to 4th Grade
5. Barb Papai – Transfer from 4th Grade to High Ability/Remediation

Rolling Prairie

1. Nicole McClure – Transfer from 4th Grade to 2nd Grade
2. Lisa Smiertelny – Transfer from 2nd Grade to 3rd Grade

- Employment – Extra-Curricular

1. Jim Schwingendorf – Department Chair – PE/Health
2. Mark McBride – History Fair – Olive
3. Shannon Wilkins – Co-Student Council – Prairie View
4. Shannon Wilkins – Co-Science Fair – Prairie View

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignation/Retirements

1. Keith Dennis – Director of Finance and Capital Expenditures – Retirement effective June 30, 2012
2. Teddy Reed – Bus Driver – Leave of absence May 11, 2012 through May 23, 2012
3. Teddy Reed – Bus Driver – Resignation effective May 23, 2012
4. Rhonda Smoroske – Bus Assistant – Resignation at the end of the 2011-2012 school year

- Employment/Transfer

1. Michele Stayback – Food Service – Transfer from HS cook to RP Dishwasher/Activity Center – 5 ½ hrs.
2. Karen Combs – Food Service – Transfer from RP Dishwasher to RP Cook – 6 ½ hours.

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Jodi Walbring – Co-Science Fair – Prairie View
 2. Cheryl Pumroy – Co-Student Council – Prairie View
 3. Shari Rose – Junior Class Sponsor
 4. Shari Rose – Co-Cheerleading Sponsor – NPHS
 5. Kristen Foley – Auxiliary Guard – NPHS
 6. Ellyn Koselke – Co-Color Guard – NPHS
 7. Jessica Bealor – Co-Color Guard – NPHS
 8. Doug Matthys – Head Girls Basketball - NPHS

Mr. Dermody recognized the following staff members who will be retiring:

- Bob Rentschler – Hired August 1993 as Guidance Counselor at the Junior High/Middle School. Bob was involved with Spell Bowl, Student Council and Spirit Club.
- Becky Gaff – Hired August 1975 as Language Arts Teacher at the Junior High/Middle School. Becky coached track, Academic Super Bowl, Spell Bowl and served as Team Leader.
- Doug Gaff – Hired August 1975 as Science and P.E. teacher at the Junior High/Middle School. Doug coached boy’s basketball at the freshman, middle school and JV levels as well as coaching cross country, track and Science Fair.
- Keith Dennis – Hired September 2006 as Clerk of Works on the building project at the Middle School as well as serving as Chief Financial Officer.
- Teddy Reed – Hired 1998 as bus driver. Teddy was a sub bus driver from 1996-1998.
- Tiffany Galus has been hired as Instrumental Band Director. Tiffany is an NPHS 2007 graduate. She received the Outstanding Band Member Award from Indiana University, was a member of the IU Marching Hundred, served as Drum Major of the Marching Hundred and led the Marching Band at the Super Bowl.

- Doug Matthys was hired as Girls Basketball Coach at NPHS. Doug has served as JV coach since 2008-2009 with a 63-39 record. He has served with Dan Shead and wants to thank the NP community for this opportunity to coach.
- Mr. Dermody advised that summer school positions will only be filled if we reach the recommended enrollment numbers.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Despite the power outage on May 21st, no make-up day will be required. The final student day for the 2011-2012 school year remains Wednesday, May 23, 2012. The final staff day remains Thursday, May 24th. Mr. Dermody thanked Keith Dennis, Bruce Lasley, Greg Dudeck, Tammy Watkins and Mark Norton for their service during this power outage.
 - Bernie Baltus made a donation to the NP Athletic Fund through the Unity Foundation.
 - New Prairie High School received the 2012 Walsworth Yearbook Publisher honor. Chrystal Wilkeson is the head of this project.
 - Mr. Dermody recognized Jim Holifield for his work with the Chinese delegation who recently visited the New Prairie Schools.
 - The state released the IREAD scores as follows:
 - Prairie View – 90.6%
 - Rolling Prairie – 95.0%
 - Olive – 93.9%

June 18th is the second and final IREAD test date.

- Prairie View Elementary School held a fundraiser for the Scarborough twins for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Foundation and raised \$2,100. Prairie View also raised \$470 for the tornado victims of Henryville, Indiana.
- Brian Lindorf led his Rolling Prairie Elementary P.E. students to participate in the Jump for Heart and raised \$2,600.

- The NPHS Boys Track team, coached by Natalie Krause, won the Conference. The Girls Softball Team was undefeated in Conference. Rookie coach Tara Blair led the team.
- The NPUSC entered into an agreement with the Michigan City Area Schools, LaPorte Community Schools and the South LaPorte Cooperative to assist in the transportation of special needs students to Indianapolis. Michigan City Area Schools will finance this proposal.
- On May 4th, a Leadership Conference was held in LaPorte. Two NPHS students, Cortney Spencer and Nathan Hynek attended. LaPorte Savings Bank - Rolling Prairie Branch and Phanton Technology – NPHS graduate Henry Timm, supported the attendance of our students.

ACTION ITEMS

- A Conflict of Interest Disclosure was approved for Dale Groves.
- The Board approved bus bids for two Activity Buses, one 54-passenger bus and two 78-passenger buses for a total of \$359,526.
- The Board approved the second reading and adoption of Board Policy #5421 – Modification to the Grading Scale.
- The Board approved the proposal with Slam Dunk Sports Marketing for a scrolling sign at the gymnasium of NPHS.
- The Board accepted the donation from Feed the Children at a value of \$1,824.16 and from the Hudson Lake Mennonite Congregation in the amount of \$340.16 for Olive Elementary School which will be used for summer reading.
- The Board approved the Student Handbooks for 2012-2013 for New Prairie High School, New Prairie Middle School, Elementary Schools – Olive, Prairie View and Rolling Prairie, and the Athletic Handbook.
- The Board approved the Miscellaneous Textbook Adoption for 2012-2013 with Morton Publishing, Crown Publishing, McGraw Hill/Glencoe and Hal Leonard Publishers as submitted

- The Board approved the Textbook Fees for 2012-2013 as follows:
 - Kindergarten - \$58.00
 - Grade 1 - \$76.00
 - Grade 2 - \$81.00
 - Grade 3 - \$100.00
 - Grade 4 - \$96.00
 - Grade 5 - \$100.00
 - Grade 6-12 – Based on course selection

- The Board rescinded the awarding of the well project to Ortman Drilling that was approved at the May 4th Board meeting. The NPUSC will entertain new quotations for this project. Mr. Dermody advised that this action was recommended in response to concerns that the quotation opening contained some irregularities. Based on the Notice to Quote language, the action taken was permissible. However, the new quote process is recommended to ensure that the process is transparent.

- Gary Lawson asked to speak to the issue. Mr. Lawson said he is an NP graduate and businessman for over 31 years in the area. He has some concerns about the well project process. He said he has worked with many state and municipal projects and knows the difference between bids and quotations, but he knows what “late” means. It is not good business when a bid is due at 9:00 a.m. and awarded to a company that arrived late. He would ask the Board to consider the local businessman when awarding bids in the future considering the response time for repairs and personal assistance the local businessmen give to the corporation.

Invitations to re-quote will be mailed on Tuesday with an opening on May 29th at 9:00 a.m. Language has been omitted that indicated we can extend the time.

- The Board reviewed and approved the new RISE Evaluation Instrument . Dale Groves asked if teachers will have the opportunity to meet prior to a formal evaluation. Mr. Dermody said this should be going on throughout the year. If there are indications of areas of concern, affected teachers will be placed on a growth plan. Mr. Dermody said this new procedure will be a learning process over the next few years. Dale asked how long will the evaluations take. Mr. Dermody said there will be two long and three shorter informal evaluations during the year. Bernie asked how the Specials teachers will be measured. Mr. Dermody said they will be measured by the criteria submitted by the teacher and approved by the principal. The compensation model is also being worked on at this time.

- The Board approved the Crisis Prevention Response Plans for 2012-2013 for NPHS, NPMS, Olive, Prairie View, and Rolling Prairie Elementary Schools.
- The Board approved the Red Cross Authorized Provider Agreement to provide Red Cross certification to our instructors.
- The Board approved the employment of Rhonda Myers as Prairie View Elementary Principal effective July 1, 2012 and beginning July 26, 2012. Mr. Dermody advised that a selection committee comprised of Prairie View teachers, parents and administrators interviewed 10 candidates. Mrs. Myers is currently serving as principal of Twin Branch Elementary School in Mishawaka.
- The Board approved the employment of Arlene Hudgens as Director of Health Services beginning August 9, 2012. Ms. Hudgens has been serving as Health Nurse at the Michigan City Area Schools since 1992.

DISCUSSION

- The Board reviewed the Common Core 1st Grade Report Card. The new report card aligns with the Common Core standards. All first grade teachers met to develop this report card. Their efforts were recognized.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie Baltus said he appreciates everyone's involvement in the corporation for the job they have done in helping students move forward.
- Luann and Dale agree with Bernie and thank everyone for a very successful school year and their hard work.
- Al Williamson would like to welcome the new hires. He also thanks everyone for everything they do.
- Rich Shail said we learn from our mistakes as with the rescinding of the quote process. That is how we get better because we own up to mistakes and make amends. We apologize for that.

Rich would also like to welcome our new members. Rich said he likes to see the administrators at our meetings because the Board does not get the opportunity to see them very often. He likes talking to them and seeing them here. This has been a great school year with many challenges. We have climbed the hill and made it to the top. He expresses appreciation for the efforts of all NPUSC employees.