

BOARD NOTES
June 25, 2012

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, June 25, 2012 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltus 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

- Renee Mischak, Technology & Instructor Mentor, gave an overview of the instructional technology training that she and Tara Bush provided to teachers during the past school year. The teachers have used a wide range of topics for instruction on the Promethean Plus Boards. For the 2012-2013 school year, teachers would be receptive to more individualized training.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as listed:
 - Minutes – May 21, 2012, May 31, 2012, June 14, 2012
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Cassie Pavey – Kindergarten Teacher – Rolling Prairie Elementary – Leave of Absence beginning approximately September 11, 2012 and continuing through approximately November 12, 2012.
- Employment
 1. Margo Bowen – Guidance Counselor – NPMS – Effective with the start of the 2012-2013 school year

2. Erin Sarber – Language Arts Teacher – NPHS – Effective with the start of the 2012-2013 school year
 3. Melanie Groves – Part-time Math Teacher (70%) – NPHS – Effective with the start of the 2012-2013 school year.
- Transfers
 1. Thom Smith – NPHS – Transfer from full time Math to two blocks of Health and P.E. and two regular sessions of Algebra 2 effective with the start of the 2012-2013 school year.
 2. Jim Schwingendorf – NPHS – Transfer from two sections of Health to one Lifeline P.E. class and one APC P.E. effective with the start of the 2012-2013 school year.
 3. Monica Flagg – 5th Grade – Prairie View – Transfer to 5th Grade at Olive Elementary School effective with the start of the 2012-2013 school year.
 - Modifications
 1. Modification to Superintendent’s Contract
 2. Modification to Director of Curriculum/Evaluation Contract

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Diane Prestin – Bus Driver – Retirement effective August 17, 2012.
 2. Valerie Stankiewicz – Cashier – Rolling Prairie Elementary – Resignation effective May 23, 2012.
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Al Pesce – Assistant Girls Track Coach – NPHS – 2012-2013 school year
 2. Kristen Foley – Auxiliary Guard (Poms) – NPHS – 2012-2013 school year
 3. Shari Rose – Co-Pep Club Sponsor – NPHS – 2012-2013 school year

4. John Arndt – Head Boys Cross Country – NPHS – 2012-2013 school year
5. Kelly Losinski – Assistant Volleyball – NPHS – 2012-2013 school year

Jim Dermody wanted to recognize Diane Prestin – Bus Driver – who will be retiring effective August 17, 2012. Diane was hired in September, 1975 and served as driver for the Hudson Lake Elementary, Olive Elementary and Special Education route since 1993. Diane's departure will be a loss to the corporation, but we wish her a productive and happy retirement.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody and the Board recognized Alexandra Keller and Scott Keller for their efforts on the Jackie Grabarek Tennis Pavilion project. Alex wanted to thank the Board and community for their support of the project. Alex recognized the community members and businesses that have contributed both voluntarily and monetarily to the success of the project. Approximately \$12,000 has been raised to date. Alex also thanked Joel Hostetler, Tennis Coach, for his efforts. Scott Keller said he may be coming back to speak to the Board regarding additional needs for electrical service.
 - Brian Williamson took a team of four high school students to Plainfield, Indiana for a leadership conference with approximately 800 top athletic/academic students around the state. The students who attended were Todd Suttor, Jayna Colanese, T.J. Weaver and Rachel Thompson. Todd Suttor has been selected to serve on the Student Advisory Board for the State.
 - Kelley Kitchen was nominated and awarded a scholarship to attend the Bridges to the Future Program which recognizes outstanding school business officials. Kelley was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship by this organization to attend the conference in Phoenix, AZ in October. Kelley is one of 20 officials selected nationwide.
 - The NPMS held their Christmas in April fundraiser raising funds for the following:
 - Crohn's & Colitis Foundation - \$1,300
 - Smile Train - \$2,168.21
 - Team Hora - \$2,294.22

- Mr. Dermody recognized Keith Dennis who will be retiring June 29, 2012. Mr. Dermody said Keith Dennis is one of the finest individuals he has worked with and has been an asset to the corporation. Keith said it has been a great place to finish his career. Rich Shail said Keith earned his salary with the middle school project. With Keith's efforts, the project came in under budget and on time. It made it easy to say we did not want to lose him. Keith has repeatedly saved the corporation money and we are in great shape financially because of those efforts. Bernie also appreciated the job he has done. Dale said everyone who works in education is a teacher. Dale said he had a lot of questions when he first came on the Board, and he said Keith played a big part in answering those questions and helped him understand the finances. Al and LuAnn also wanted to thank Keith for his efforts.

- Ben Ingram introduced Erin Sarber who has been hired as the Language Arts teacher at NPHS for the 2012-2013 school year. Erin attended Penn High School and Manchester College. She will be teaching English 10 and senior English. Erin wanted to thank the Board for the opportunity to teach in such a prestigious corporation.

Mr. Ingram also introduced Melanie Groves who has been hired as the Geometry and Algebra teacher at NPHS. Melanie is a NPHS graduate and taught at Urey Middle School and IUSB in the Introduction to College Math courses. Melanie said she is happy to be back at New Prairie High School.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the extension of the lease with Quest Development for the Activity Center for one year beginning July 20, 2012 through July 20, 2013 at the existing cost of \$1,950 per month.

- The Board approved the contract between the NPUSC and IU Health LaPorte Hospital for the Athletic Trainer beginning August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2013 at the cost of \$18,000.

- The Board accepted the donation from Feed the Children at the value of \$2,268.67. They also accepted the donation from the Foundation in Support of IU Health – LaPorte Hospital in the amount of \$750 for the purpose of purchasing the ImPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) program for NPHS athletes.

- The Board approved the Cafeteria Bids for the 2012-2013 school year as recommended by Tammy Watkins, Food Service Director.

- The Board approved the employment of Rebecca Bartlett as Principal of Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective July 1, 2012 for the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

Mr. Dermody said Becky Bartlett is currently serving as the principal of Meadow's Edge Elementary School in the PHM School Corporation. Ms. Bartlett has served with distinction as an elementary teacher, Title I supervisor, and elementary principal at three schools. She has been recommended by an interview committee which consisted of Rolling Prairie Elementary staff, the PTO president, an NPUSC administrator, and Mr. Dermody. Ms. Bartlett is a very dedicated and capable educator who will make a positive impact on the Rolling Prairie Elementary school community.

- The Board approved the extension of the T & I Mentors for the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Dermody met with the Mentors to determine the direction we need to go to focus on the needs of the teachers. The extra year would support our staff's development of higher skills and mastery levels.
- The Board approved the contract between the NPUSC and USIC Locating Services for underground facilities location services. Bernie reviewed the fee structure with Mr. Dermody and feels we are getting a lot of services for the fees provided.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie wanted to commend Mark Norton for all of the work he performs. He credits Mark for all the technology we have taken on throughout the corporation and the accomplishments Mark has completed.
- Bernie said the NPUSC has been criticized in the past for the early school start in August; however, he has noticed throughout the state how many other corporations have followed in this direction.
- Bernie wanted to commend two former NPHS students – Jason Flagg and Jason Zook who have been recognized for the Over 40 Leaders in the South Bend community. He feels this speaks well for our corporation.
- LuAnn wanted to welcome the new principal and teachers to the NPUSC. She also appreciates Keith Dennis for all his hard work.
- Rich wanted to commend Brian Williamson for the successful Golf fundraiser. He also wanted to welcome the new teachers and principal. He said we expect a lot from them, but we are very supportive and resourceful.