

BOARD NOTES
May 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, May 20, 2013 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, Dale Groves, Bernie Baltes and Phil King present. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

Al Williamson made a motion to amend the agenda to move Action Item "M" – 2013-2014 Review of NPHS Credit Requirements to the Discussion item. Also, under the Consent Items – "E" - Personnel – Add #3 – Donna Mitchell resignation. The amendment and adoption of the agenda was approved.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Krissy Surma and Lisa Smiertelny reviewed the RTI (Response to Intervention) Program at Rolling Prairie Elementary School. Teachers submit the names of struggling students that the RTI Team reviews. The team submits ideas to help work with the child to become successful. The Team meets with teachers and parents after six weeks. This program is followed in all three elementary schools.
- The Board recognized Olivia Ness and Kyle Kenyon who placed third in Level 1 competition at the Great Lakes Chinese Speech Contest. Chinese teachers May Tang and Lin Huang were also recognized.
- The Board recognized Shannon Wilkins who was named WSBT Teacher of the Month. Melissa Kobitz and Shannon Wilkins, both of Prairie View Elementary School qualified for the Teacher of the Year award.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – April 22, 2013 and May 6, 2013
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Shannon McBride – Teacher – NPMS – Extend leave of absence through May 24, 2013.
 2. Sandra Murray – Spanish Teacher – NPHS – Extend leave of absence through July 15, 2013.
 3. Donna Mitchell – Vocal Music Teacher – NPMS – Retirement effective May 24, 2013.
- Resignations – Extra-Curricular
 1. Krissy Surma – RTI Co-Chair – Rolling Prairie Elementary School
 2. Greg Miller – Academic Decathlon Coach – NPHS
 3. Natalie Krause – Head Boys Track Coach – NPHS
 4. Sid Shroyer – Department Chair – English Dept.
- Employment
 1. Renee Mischak – Technology & Instructional Mentor – 2013-2014 School Year
 2. Brad Phillips – Transfer to English/LA & Social Studies – 7th Grade – Effective August 12, 2013
- Employment – Summer School (Contingent upon acceptable enrollment)
 1. Judy Bubanovich – PLATO Program
 2. Gale Gonder – PLATO Program
 3. Gail Bannister – NPMS Exploring Music
 4. Tiffany Galus – NPHS Instrumental Ensemble
 5. Sharon Bashaw – 3rd Grade Reading Remediation
- Employment – Summer School – Driver’s Training
 1. Marty Mosson
 2. Brian Lindorf
 3. Mark Belsaas
 4. Matt Flagg
 5. Mark McBride
 6. Russ Radtke
 7. Doug Snyder
 8. Larry Szczechowski

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Chrystal Wilkeson – Department Chair – English – NPHS
 2. Linda Behm – Hoosier Spell Bowl - Olive Elementary School

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Tonia Armato – Food Service – Resignation effective April 26, 2013
 2. Kellie Sturgeon – Instructional Assistant – Prairie View – Leave of absence beginning approximately April 23, 2013 and continuing through May 23, 2013.
- Employment
 1. Ken Popard - Lead Custodian – Prairie View Elementary School
- Employment – Extra-Curricular – 2013-2014 School Year
 1. Russ Radtke – Head Football Coach – NPHS
 2. Ryan Radtke – Assistant Football Coach – NPHS
 3. Bobby Whitenack – Assistant Football Coach – NPHS
 4. Bill Gumm – Assistant Football Coach – NPHS
 5. Shari Rose – Cheerleading Sponsor – NPHS
 6. Shari Rose – Pep Club Sponsor – NPHS
 7. Shari Rose – Junior Class Sponsor – NPHS
 8. Bobby Whitenack – Head Wrestling Coach – NPHS
 9. Al Pesce – Assistant Girls Track Coach – NPHS
 10. Jodi Walbring – Co-Science Fair Sponsor – Prairie View Elementary School
 11. Troy Campbell – Head Volleyball Coach – NPHS
 12. Larry Sheagley – Freshman Volleyball Coach

Mr. Dermody wanted to recognize Ken Popard who has been named Lead Custodian at Prairie View Elementary School.

Mr. Dermody also recognized Donna Mitchell who will be retiring at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. Donna was hired as the Music teacher at NPHS/JHS in 1985. In 1994, Donna was named Music teacher at New Prairie Junior High where she has been involved in numerous activities such as Goal Getters and Fine Arts Night. Donna cares deeply about her students and she is a very dedicated individual.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Summer hours begin at the Central Office on May 28th – July 26th. The hours will be 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - Graduation is set for June 2nd at 2:00 p.m.
 - Sara Timm has been chosen by the South LaPorte County Cooperative as one of five representatives to attend the NSTE National Technology Conference in San Antonio.
 - ISTEP+ and ECA testing has concluded. There are concerns throughout the state with the validity of the testing. It may become the responsibility of the school corporations to participate in determining the validity of the test scores. Mr. Dermody congratulated the staff, students and administrators during this process.
 - The summer professional development schedule has been finalized for the iPad and Mac books training. Renee Mischak will remain as Instructional Technology Mentor for the 2013-2014 school year.
 - IREAD3 Results are as follows:
 - Prairie View – 98.1%
 - Rolling Prairie – 98.8%
 - Olive – 94.7%

There were 34 perfect scores this year.

Mr. Dermody credits the teaching staff, administrators, students and parents. A special thank you to the following third grade teachers:

- Gail Hartman
 - Patty Sardeson
 - Wendy Sundwall
 - Sharon Bashaw
 - Shannon Wilkins
 - Stephanie Bellinger
 - Cheryl Karczewski
 - Lisa Smiertelny
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- A Board/Administrative Retreat will be scheduled this summer
 - Olive students and sponsor, Patty Sardeson, recently attended the Young Astronauts program in Huntsville, Alabama.
 - Students at Rolling Prairie, Prairie View and Olive participated in the Jump Rope fundraiser with the assistance from Brian Lindorf and Julie Schroeder. Rolling Prairie raised \$3,500; Prairie View - \$1,800; and Olive - \$2,000. Twelve students each raised over \$100 each and one student donated his birthday money to the program.

- The NPUSC will receive six cents per meal served through a USDA program. School corporations volunteered to participate and were required to meet the criteria. Tammy Watkins was instrumental in obtaining this initiative.
- The annual Athletic Golf Outing is scheduled for June 23rd at Legacy Hills Golf Course in LaPorte.
- Wellness Committee Report

Kelley Kitchen reviewed the proposed guidelines for the Wellness policy. The committee consisting of Kelley, Tammy Watkins, Tina Bunch, staff, parents, administrators, Board members and health professionals reviewed the policy incorporating nutrition into the curriculum along with physical activities, school based activities to promote wellness, and healthy food offerings during the day. The policy met the IDOE standards which include no food for rewards and no carbonated beverages. The proposed policy will be introduced at the June Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board accepted donations as follows:
 - Welch Motors and Bill Welch – 40 snowsuits to Rolling Prairie/Prairie View Elementary Schools
 - We Give Books – 60 books to Rolling Prairie Elementary School
 - Feed the Children – Value of \$1,185.36
- The Board approved the Conflict of Interest Disclosure for Carrie Cannon.
- The Board approved the modification of Food Service and Transportation hours, wages and benefits as recommended.
- The Board approved the resolution to close and move balances in the cafeteria and textbook funds as submitted.
- The Board approved the appointment of Tara Bush as Assistant Middle School Principal effective July 1, 2013. Tara has served as interim principal at Olive Elementary School. Tara has been a teacher with the NPUSC for nine years as well as serving as Instructional Tech Mentor for 1 1/2 years. Tara said she is excited and honored to remain at New Prairie as an administrator.

- The Board approved the appointment of Greg Dettinger as High School Principal effective July 1, 2013. Mr. Dettinger is currently the principal of Truckee High School in Truckee, California. Mr. Dettinger has also served in the Air Force, the California Highway Patrol and as a English/Spanish teacher. He has also served in various administrative capacities, including the last three years as a high school principal. Mr. Dermody said the committee supports the recommendation of Mr. Dettinger. Mr. Dettinger said he is humbled and honored to begin at New Prairie. He said he is looking forward to building relationships with the community, staff and students. Mr. Dettinger worked with the gangs in Los Angeles and went into education to try and keep students off the streets and in school.

- The Board approved the Student Handbooks as follows:
 - New Prairie High School
 - New Prairie Middle School
 - Elementary Schools – Olive, Prairie View and Rolling Prairie
 - NPHS Athletic Handbook

- The Board approved the resolution for the Tax Anticipation Warrant for the exempt debt.

- The Board approved the textbook adoption for the Wonders Reading Program with Houghtlin Mifflin and various vendors for the Business classes as submitted for the 2013-2014 school year. Carrie stated that the reading program will be a digital version; however, teachers will receive a hard copy during the transition period. Dual credits will have a hard copy as required by the college. We will begin purchasing as many digital subject matters as possible in the future.

- The Board approved the textbook fees for the 2013-2014 school year as follows:
 - Kindergarten - \$69
 - Grade 1 - \$89
 - Grade 2 - \$89
 - Grade 3 - \$115
 - Grade 4 - \$115
 - Grade 5 - \$115
 - Grade 6-12 – Based on course selection

Mr. Dermody indicated that Kelley Kitchen and Carrie Cannon worked hard at reducing the supply lists at each individual grade level to maintain reasonable fees for parents.

- The Board approved the modification to the RISE Teacher Evaluation Instrument. Mr. Dermody wanted to recognize the efforts of the committee members:
 - Sara Serry
 - Jenny Hite
 - Carrie Cannon
 - Jim Holifield
 - Julie Schroeder
 - Kellie Cartwright
 - Dena True
 - Mark Meyer
 - Lisa Kovach
 - Sue Koziel

- The Board approved the “Success by Six” pre-school program. Chris Pate of United Way, Kregg VanMeter and Carrie Cannon were influential in obtaining the grant for this program. Each child coming into kindergarten this year went through a screening assessment to help in the placement of students in the classroom. Chris said the United Way moved from the basic allocation format to working in impact areas. She is excited to be involved in this initiative which is also offered at the Michigan City Area Schools. Mr. Dermody said the goal of the NPUSC is to build a partnership with the United Way.

- The Board approved the bus bids for the purchase of four 78-passenger buses, one 54-passenger Special Needs bus and one Activity bus at the total cost of \$499,689.

DISCUSSION

- The Board discussed the review of the 2014 NPHS credit requirement. In 2009, the School Board approved the increase of credits from 40 to 46 for 2014. At that time, dual credits, math and foreign language had not been included in the curriculum requirements. The administration has surveyed area schools to review this policy to determine whether there will be any changes by developing a committee apprised of teachers and administrators.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Board members wanted to thank the staff and administrators for a highly successful school year.

- Phil congratulated Tara Bush and Greg Dettinger for their appointments. He also wanted to thank the staff and administration during the ISTEP and IREAD 3 process. Phil also wanted to send his condolences to the Lewis family for their loss.
- Dale wanted to assure the staff and administration that they all make a difference to children.
- Rich wanted to recognize the School Board for obtaining Outstanding status through the ISBA for five years in a row. Board members receive points for attending meetings and conferences throughout the year. The NPUSC School Board continues to learn in the education field.
- Rich also announced that the NPHS had the highest graduation rate in the area.
- Rich wanted to recognize the hard work of Mr. Dermody. The Board has a great working relationship with Mr. Dermody who is always working for the betterment of the NPUSC.