

BOARD NOTES
January 30, 2014

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, January 30, 2014 with all Board members present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Mark Norton handed out the new iPads to the Board members and briefly reviewed the various applications with the Board. Jim Dermody and the Board members thanked Mark for his explanations.
- Jim Dermody congratulated the High School Wrestling Team, recognizing all the wrestlers by name, for finishing 3rd in the State. Congratulations also to Bobby Whitenack, Jim Schwingendorf and Don Stoner for coaching the boys to a great finish!

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Melissa Kuczanski – Counselor - Rolling Prairie Elementary – FMLA Leave beginning 1/13/14 – 1/17/14 and possibly on 2/1/14.
 2. Julie Schroeder – Elementary PE Teacher – Prairie View & Olive Elementary Schools - Indefinite unpaid leave with access to health insurance benefits at employee’s full cost.
 3. Rebecca Higgins – High School Art Teacher – Retirement effective 6/30/2014
- Employment
 1. Benjamin White – Part-Time Music Teacher - Rolling Prairie Elementary beginning 1/22/2014.
 2. Kelli Tanger – Grade 2 – Rolling Prairie Elementary – beginning 2/25/2014 for 8 weeks.

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Katherine Bates – Bus Driver – FMLA Leave – March 7, 2014 through April 4, 2014
 2. Jillian Stratton – Instructional Aide – Rolling Prairie Elementary - Unpaid Leave of absence for 4 weeks
 3. Floyd Tibbs – Bus Driver – FMLA Leave starting 1/10/14 until released
 4. Haylee Presley – Cafeteria Aide – Prairie View – FMLA Leave beginning 5/8/2014.
 5. Elizabeth Tanksley – Food Service – High School – Resignation as of 1/15/14.
 6. Kristin Jasinski – FMLA Leave beginning 1/14/14 for 4 – 6 weeks.
 7. Troy Campbell – High School Coach – Head Girls Volleyball – Resignation as of 1/28/2014.
- Extra-Curricular
 1. Brent Campos – Assistant Girls 8th Grade Basketball Coach
- Employment
 1. Cheryl Smith – Activity Center Program Assistant
 2. Jaci Williams – Activity Center Program Assistant
 3. Pamela Lake – Substitute Bus Driver
- Transfers
 1. Cindy Gamble – Bus Driver - Transfer from Bus Route #39 to Route #40.

Mr. Dermody recognized Rebecca Higgins who will be retiring at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Mrs. Higgins was hired as an Art Teacher at New Prairie High School in 1976. New Prairie United School Corporation wishes Becky the very best in her retirement and wants to thank her for her service.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Reports
 - The Corporation Report Card was presented to the Board. Specific school scores went down slightly, thus reducing the Corporation's Report Card grade from an A to a high B.
 - Mr. Shail stated he heard that there was a possibility of pushing ISTEP+ testing back. Mr. Dermody stated that testing is on schedule as planned at this time.
 - Jim Holifield explained briefly his educational trip to the Dominican Republic, stating that he thought he knew what poverty was until he saw it there. He took a long list of items to gift to students. The students were excited and grateful.
 - Mr. Dermody recognized Brian Williamson, Bob DeMeyer, and Bruce Lasley for their prompt help in transporting people who were on the bus that was involved in the accident on Highway 20 January 1st. They transported the people to the high school to keep them warm and safe until their replacement bus arrived. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.
 - Mr. Dermody then recognized Bill and Kathy Rose, Greg Dudeck and the NPMS custodial staff who quickly cleaned up the water on the gym floor resulting from a major sprinkler leak. Their immediate efforts minimized the damage to the floor saving many thousands of dollars. Great job!
 - Greg Dudeck reported to Olive Elementary upon the receipt of a call from Tammy Watkins about a power outage that shut down a cooler. Greg had to climb up on the roof and break up the ice build up on top of the cooler thus saving the cooler full of food. A very grateful thank you goes out to Greg Dudeck for his prompt response.
 - Another grateful "thank you" goes out to Shelley Dettinger, who managed in the midst of the snow storms and impassable roads, to complete the payroll in a timely manner.
 - The ceremony for Dale Mathews was very powerful and commenced as planned in spite of the weather. The family was extremely thankful to the NPUSC for letting them have their services at the high School. New Prairie presented itself well.
 - Mr. Kresca will be present at the February meeting to give an update on the Activity Center.
 - Mr. Dermody stated he expects to present a 2014-15 Corporation Calendar proposal to the Board at the February meeting. Currently May 30th is the last day of classes for students this school year due to the multiple cancellations.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board accepted donations as follows:
 - (A)
 - Surplus Governmental Property – Security Cameras
 - Feed the Children – 71 Pounds of School Supplies - Value of \$448.01
 - The LaPorte Saving Bank - \$1,000.00 for the Activity Center
 - Hudson Lake Mennonite Church - Gift to Prairie View Elementary of \$197.53.
 - Robotics Club received sponsorships for Robotics Club from:
 - Charles Mares Hardware - \$50.00
 - Feeney's New Carlisle - \$50.00
 - Nova, Inc - \$150.00
 - PTC Grant - \$1,000.00
 - Cummins Diesel - \$500.00
 - Northern Indiana Electric Company - \$500.00
 - Sunset Septic & Excavating - \$225.00
 - Pressel Enterprises, Inc - \$100.00
 - Al-Bach Precision - \$100.00
 - Silcotec - \$100.00
 - California Analytical Instruments, Inc. - \$200.00
 - Dan and Jamie Sales - \$200.00
 - (B) Approve Conflict of Interest – C.J.'s Outdoor Services
 - (C) Approve the "Go Solutions Group, Inc." Agreement

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie read an article regarding how to provide energy to a growing population. There is a concern with agricultural issues and the growing need to implement more Agricultural Science classes. Jim Dermody explained that we are looking to increase career education opportunities for our graduates.
- Al Williamson expressed his appreciation for Mr. Dermody's hard work and time spent, especially concerning the weather issues, and keeping everyone safe.
- The Board agreed on Tuesday, February 4th, for the Public Hearing regarding the Olive Twp-New Carlisle Library Board to be held at 5:00 p.m. at New Prairie Middle School in the LGI Room.