

BOARD NOTES

April 27, 2015

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, April 27, 2015 with Rich Shail, Dale Groves, Phil King, William Romstadt and Jim Dermody present. Board Vice President, Al Williamson, was absent.

Rich Shail, President, reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

There was a motion by Phil King to adopt the agenda, seconded by William Romstadt and approved 4-0-1

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Ms. Becky Bartlett, Principal at Rolling Prairie Elementary School, introduced Ms. Gabriella Post, Grade K-2 Title I Teacher, Mrs. Vicky Mosson, Title I Teacher & Mr. Jarrett Spence, 2nd Grade Teacher and explained their implementation of the Title I program which primarily involves dads. Ms. Post presented a PowerPoint presentation on the popular All Pro Dads breakfast program. Mrs. Mosson helped explain how the Title I grant requires parent involvement which this successful program cultivates. Mr. Spence excitedly explained the increasing popularity of this program and how it works. This program is meant to help dads with parenting skills and keeps them active in the schools with their children. He stated that he averages 32 dads per month and sees it increasing in the future. More information can be located on the All Pro Dads website.
- Kelley Kitchen introduced the two high school students who are the student representatives for the Wellness Committee. Moriah Carmel and Jessica Ferrell presented a PowerPoint presentation on how they have promoted wellness this year. They came up with a recipe contest call "Cougar Bites" to promote wellness with the students. The winning recipe was Zucchini Chips that a student created. They hope to make this an annual contest.
- Rhonda Meyers introduced Prairie View's Math Bowl Coach, Mrs. Koziel, 5th Grade Teacher and her assistant Mrs. Roglenda Smith. Mrs. Koziel introduced her Math Bowl Team and explained how well the students performed in their state competition. Mr. Dermody and the Board presented the students with certificates.

HOLD JOINT HEARING ON PROJECT, PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION, AND AMENDMENT TO LEASE

A meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the New Prairie United School Corporation was held at the Administration Building, 5327 North Cougar Road, New Carlisle, Indiana, on April 27, 2015 at the hour of 6:00 p.m., pursuant to notice duly given in accordance INDIANA CODE 20-26-4-3 and INDIANA CODE 5-14-1.5, and the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board.

On call of the roll, the members of the Board were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Rich Shail, President; Dale Groves, Secretary; Phil King, & William Romstadt Jr.

Absent: Al Williamson, Vice President

(among other proceedings had and action taken were the following:)

The President discussed the opportunity to refund certain outstanding debt of the School Corporation, and also explained that under Indiana law whenever a school corporation proposed to construct or renovate a school building at a cost in excess of one million dollars it must first hold a public hearing. It was also explained that another purpose of the meeting was that whenever a school corporation proposes to enter into a lease for the construction or renovation of a school building resulting in total costs in excess of the lesser of (a) \$2,000,000 or (b) 1% of total gross assessed valuation of the property within the school district, the School Corporation is required to hold a public hearing on its preliminary determination to issue such bonds and enter into such lease. The proofs of publication and mailing of the notice of the hearing were presented at the meeting. Notice of this public hearing was published in the *LaPorte Herald-Argus* and the *South Bend Tribune* on March 27, 2015. Notice of the hearing on the preliminary determination was also published on April 17, 2015, and mailed to the Circuit Court Clerk and to other entities who requested such notice. The proofs of publication and mailing of the notice of the hearing were presented to the meeting.

It was explained that at this hearing all interested people may give testimony and/or ask questions concerning the building project. The purpose of the hearing is two-fold: (1) to inform the public as to the proposed building project; and (2) to allow all interested parties, taxpayers and patrons of the School Corporation to voice their opinions as to the project and ask questions.

After the purpose of the hearing was explained, the presentations regarding the need for the renovations and improvement to the high school including, but not limited to, roofing & restroom upgrades (the "Project") were given. The Superintendent gave an evaluation of the existing facilities and explained the plans for capital improvements. The estimated costs of the Project and schedule were then presented to the public.

It was further stated that the proposed amendment to lease, drawings, plans, specifications and estimates for the Project had been on file from the date of publication of said notice until today, in the Administration Building of the School Corporation. Copies of the same were presented at this meeting for the inspection of the members of the Board, along with the costs of issuance of the proposed bonds. He said that it was not necessary to review in detail all of the procedure to date since all of the members of the Board were thoroughly familiar with all steps heretofore taken, including the proposed lease, drawings, plans, specifications and estimates just submitted, but that if any persons present, other than members of this Board had any questions concerning these documents or the previous actions of this Board, or other steps taken regarding the Project, he would answer the same.

After the above presentations, the President announced they would now hear testimony and questions from the public.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Superintendent made a recommendation to the Board to adopt a Resolution to undertake the improvements at a cost of more than one million dollars. Motion made by Dale Groves to adopt the resolution attached as Exhibit A. Seconded by Bill Romstadt. A discussion was held by the Board. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the resolution attached as Exhibit A was adopted by a vote of 4-0.

Then the Board considered a preliminary determination to issue bonds and enter a lease in order to construct the Project. The Board then considered and adopted the Preliminary Determination Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit B.

The President then advised the Board that it had received a petition of patrons requesting the amendment of an existing lease of a school facility. The Board adopted the resolution attached as Exhibit C by a vote of 4-0.

Motion made by Dale Groves to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bill Romstadt. Meeting adjourned.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Kevin Macias – RPES & PVES PE Teacher – resignation effective June 30, 2015
 2. Nicholas Rissler – NPHS Spanish Teacher – resignation effective June 30, 2015
 3. Timothy Scott – NPHS Head Boys Basketball Coach resignation- effective 4/14/15
 4. Sue Johnson –NPMS Co-Team Leader resignation – effective the end of the 2014-15 school year
 5. Marty Mosson – NPMS Co-Team Leader resignation – effective the end of the 2014-15 school year
 6. Mark McBride – NPMS 6th Grade Boys Basketball Assistant Coach resignation – effective the end of the 2014-15 school year
 7. Lori Rose – NPMS 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach resignation – effective the end of the 2014-15 school year
 8. Patty Sardeson – Olive 5th Grade Young Astronaut Sponsor resignation – effective the end of the 2014-15 school year
 9. Diana Jones – Olive Co-Chair of GEI resignation effective the end of the 2014-15 school year
- Employment
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Martin Mosson – Boys Assistant Track – NPMS – 2014-15
- Adjustments

The following teachers are to receive the remainder of their stipends from the 21st Century Grant:
Laurel Laughlin - \$1,000, Tonya Aerts - \$1,000, Frank Hobart - \$2,000

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Kay Schneider – NPHS Custodian - retirement effective 5/5/2015
 2. Todd Humphrey – NPHS Midnight Custodian – resignation effective 4/20/15
 3. Pamela Wojtysiak – Instructional Aide at Olive Elementary – retirement effective 6/2/2015
 4. Taralyne Hillegonds – 21st Century Program Teacher – resignation effective 3/5/2015
 5. Doug Mathys – NPHS Girls Basketball Coach – Non-Renewal of contract effective 4/27/15
 6. Stacey Weiss – NPHS – ESL Assistant – Resignation as of 4-20-15
- Employment
 1. Jacob Jackson – Network Administrator – beginning 5/11/2015 @ \$60,000 per year
 2. Christy Michiaels – Part-Time Custodian at Rolling Prairie Elementary @ \$10.50 per hour beginning 4/13/2015

3. Robert Paver – Instructional Aide at Rolling Prairie Elementary – beginning 4/13/15

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Douglas Williamson – Head JV Baseball Coach – beginning 3/20/15
- Adjustments

Mr. Dermody recognized Kay Schneider, Custodian at New Prairie High School, retiring after 23.5 years of dedicated service. NPUSC wishes Kay Schneider the very best in her retirement.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Mr. Dermody recognized Alex Suppinger, NPHS student, who has been awarded the National Merit Scholarship to Purdue University Veterinary Science program. This is a great honor for Alex. Alex also was chosen to participate in the Math Con contest along with James Zwierzynski & Meghann Chlebowski on April 25th.
- NPHS Robotics Team 2197 qualified for the State Finals for the first time in the history of NPHS Robotics. Though the team did not place they did produce the first robot that ran without any interruption during the competition. The NPUSC is very proud of Mr. Hobart and his outstanding Robotics Team and program.
- Mr. Dermody lauded Ms. Becky Bartlett, Principal at Rolling Prairie Elementary and her staff for their reaction to the medical crisis with one of her students last week. Ms. Bartlett stood up and thanked her staff and especially thanked the Rolling Prairie Elementary Nurse, Chrystal Snyder, who also acted immediately and tended to the student quickly and professionally.
- Mr. Dermody explained that Mrs. Cannon organized a weekend field trip that transported over 300 of the after school program students to Chicago last weekend on the River Boat Cruise from Navy Pier as well as to the Children’s Museum. The trip was a great success with a great number of the students stating that they had never been to Chicago and that they greatly enjoyed the trip.
- Mr. Dermody announced the “Ring Ceremony” for the NPHS Football Team will be Thursday evening, April 30th.
- Mr. Dermody announced that in the Washington Post ledger listing the Most Challenging High Schools in America, New Prairie High School is listed number 1,933 out of 2,300. This is quite a notable accomplishment. The recognized schools were identified from a pool of over 23,000 United State high schools.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board approved Food Service Account Balance Write Offs
- (B) The Board approved the 2015-16 Meal Pricing
- (C) The Board approved the Recommendation for Banking
 - The LaPorte Savings Bank for Extra-Curricular, Activity Center, & Scholarship Accounts
 - Wells Fargo for the Corporation, Cafeteria & Olive Elementary Accounts
- (D) The Board approved the Overnight Field Trip Requests:
 - NPHS Robotics Team to State Finals at Ben Davis High School In Indianapolis – 4/2 – 4/2015

- FBLA to National Leadership Conference in Chicago – June 29 – July 2, 2015
 - Young Astronauts Club from Rolling Prairie, Prairie View, and Olive Elementary will be taking an overnight field trip on a charter bus to the Huntsville, AL Space Camp May 1 -3, 2015.
- (E) The Board approved the new NPUSC Grading Scale Review & Recommendation
- (F) The Board adopted the 1028 Resolution
- (G) The Board adopted the Preliminary Determination Resolution
- (H) The Board accepted the Receipt of Patron's Petitions
- (I) The Board approved the Operation Agreement with the LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Area Vocational District #6
- (J) The Board approved the Joint Agreement for the South LaPorte County Special Education Cooperative
- (K) The Board approved the revised 2015-16 School Calendar
- (L) The Board approved the Performance Guarantee Agreement with Performance Services
- (M) The Board accepted the following Donations:
- (1) NPHS Robotics Team Received Donations from:
 - Mr. David Devereaux - \$150.00
 - Lakeshore Cleaners & Laundry, Michigan City - \$25.00
 - Sauers Buick GMC - \$150.00
 - Silcotec, Inc. - \$200.00
 - Mr. Thomas Lane - \$100.00
 - Reuer Machine & Tool, Inc. - \$100.00
 - LaPorte Precision Machine Works, LLD - \$100.00
 - (2) Dr. James Dworkin, PNC Chancellor donated \$28.00 to Rolling Prairie Elementary
 - (3) Wagner Insurance Agency, with All State Insurance, donated \$80 to the Athletic Department
 - (4) Rolling Prairie VFW dedicated a United State Flag to the New Prairie High School Auditorium
- (N) The Board approved the extra 5 days for 2014-15 for Ruth Trujillo and Colleen Henehan for new Counselor training.
- (O) The Board approved the updated Position Descriptions:
 - Building Secretary/Treasurer
 - Building Receptionist
- (P) The Board approved the Letter of Understanding between Invent Now, Inc. and NPUSC
- (Q) The Board approved the Genius Quote
- (R) The Board approved the 36 Month Copier Lease
- (S) The Board approved the Year One 21st Century Community Learning Grant Agreement

DISCUSSION

- (A) 1ST Reading of Revised Board Policy 7540.03

BOARD COMMENTS

Dale Groves congratulated the many students who were recognized tonight for their accomplishments!

Rich Shail commented that he is happy to know that Prom was successful with no problems this year.

Dale Groves made the motion to adjourn.