

BOARD NOTES
January 25, 2016

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, January 25, 2016 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, Dale Groves, Phil King, William Romstadt and Dr. Paul White present.

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

There was a motion by Romstadt to amend the Agenda to include an additional Overnight Field Trip, Williamson seconded the motion and was approved 5-0

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Carrie Cannon, NPUSC Curriculum Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation on eLearning and early release days at NPUSC. Carrie explained that she along with a group of 18 teachers and administrators met in December to discuss the possibility of an eLearning/Early Release day option within the 2016-17 school calendar. The group Skyped with Garrett, Zionsville, Bluffton, Plymouth, and Maconaquah to discuss the successes and challenges with the implementation of such plans. We know that learning can and does take place 24/7. We also know learning is not dependent upon a school building operating at certain hours of the day. There are three options for additional learning; eLearning, Flex Learning and Early Release Days. All three options were explained by Mrs. Cannon. The proposal to the Board is that we continue with some traditional snow days that have no eLearning element to them and move towards the route of Flex Days or Early Releases. If the decision to go forward with Flex days, then those would be best in the fall. This would help with a practice run for eLearning days. The Board responded with many questions answered by Mrs. Cannon. The Board asked for more data before making their decision.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – December 14, 2015, January 4, 2016
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Brandi Heeter – FMLA Leave beginning 1/1/2016 through approximately 5/22/2016
 2. Monica Flagg – Extra-Curricular Resignation – History Fair – Olive Elementary School effective 1/19/2016
- Employment
 1. John Arndt – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
 2. Amy Bauer – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016

3. Judy Bubanovich – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
4. Kelle Cartwright – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
5. Julie Cinal – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
6. Matt Flagg – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
7. Susan French – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
8. Holly Harenza – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
9. Jennifer Hite – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
10. Gary Hixenbaugh – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
11. Kimberly Krauklis – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
12. Susan Johnson – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
13. Shannon McBride – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
14. Kari McLaughlin – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
15. Ronald McVay – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
16. Marlene Nickerson -21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
17. Kristina Pentelow – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
18. Bradley Phillips – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
19. Lori Rose – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
20. Jon Schroeder – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
21. Jennifer Smith – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
22. Krista Smith – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
23. Dena True – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
24. Karen VanOverberghe – 21st Century Enrichment Tutor at New Prairie Middle School for the 2015-16 school year at \$20 per hour beginning 1/4/2016
25. Janelle Taylor – 3rd Grade Teacher at Olive Elementary beginning 1/12/16

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
- Adjustments

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Angela Lenig – Intermittent medical leave from 1/1/2016 through 5/24/2016
 2. Debbie Vascil – FMLA Leave beginning 12/15/2015 through approximately 1/29/2016
 3. Sheila Nixon – FMLA Leave beginning 12/29/2015 through approximately 1/25/2016
 4. Kathy Rose – Retirement as NPMS Lead Custodian as of January 29, 2016
 5. Melissa Krycka – Medical Leave beginning 1/20/16 for approximately 6 weeks

- Employment
 1. Jessica Orr – Instructional Assistant at Prairie View Elementary beginning 12/10/15
 2. Ashley Williamson – Full time day custodian at NPHS beginning 1/4/2016
 3. Emma Hunt – 21st Century Instructional Assistant at Prairie View Elementary for the 2015-16 school year beginning 1/4/2016
 4. Lally Andrasco – Instructional Assistant at Rolling Prairie Elementary beginning 1/20/2016

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Eric Brown – ½ Assistant Wrestling Coach at NPHS for the 2015-16 school year
 2. Andrew Maez – Assistant Wrestling Coach at NPMS for the 2015-16 school year
 3. Emma Hunt – 21st Century Instructional Assistant at Prairie View Elementary at \$10 per hour for the 2015-16 school year beginning 1/4/2016
 4. James Woods – Assistant Wrestling Coach at NPMS for the 2015-16 school year

- Adjustments –

Jordan Hastings, evening custodian at Prairie View Elementary, has been recommended for promotion to Lead Custodian at Prairie View Elementary beginning 1/4/2016. Jordan will begin earning \$14.00 per hour. After 6 months, \$15.00 per hour pending a successful evaluation. After 1 year, \$16.00 per hour pending a successful evaluation.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Reports

- Dr. White introduced Diane Effinger and Charles Halick from New World Financial Systems who presented their financial software to the Board for their consideration.
 - Diane Effinger explained that their program has been around for 35 years. The system has focused solely on the public sector. There is an existing customer base in IN and MI with 33 schools both large and small. Benefits are that a solid base in Indiana, proven ease of implementation which is a strong quality for this program. Customer satisfaction, support and service is most important. They offer expert customer teams to obtain the best service.

- Charles Halick provided a slide show of the program highlighting the browser based program. This program is very intuitive giving users the options they need. Data from other systems can be imported simply. Security within the system is extremely strong.
- Kelley Kitchen stated that the committee started with 14 companies, narrowing it down to 6. They interviewed the 6 companies after 2 years of researching them. New World was found to be the best for NPUSC needs.
- Dr. White thanked Diane Effinger and Charles Halick for coming to review the program for the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted the Donations as listed:
 - Rolling Prairie United Methodist Church donated \$100.00 to Rolling Prairie Elementary School
 - Chancellor James Dworkin of Purdue University North Central donated \$40.00 to Olive Elementary
 - Feed The Children donated 14 lbs. of Children's Books, 103 lbs. of School Supplies, 2 lbs. of Used Children's Books and 1 lb. of L'Oreal Products to NPUSC valued at \$879.47
 - Dr. David Miller donated Hazelton Baby Grand Piano to NPMS
 - Knights of Columbus donated 12 winter coats for students at Rolling Prairie Elementary School
 - Alcoa Inc. donated \$1,000 to the New Prairie Robotics Team
 - LaPorte County Farm Bureau Inc. donated \$250 to the NPHS FFA Program
- (B) The Board approved the Conflict of Interest Statements for: William Rose and Ashley Williamson
- (C) The Board approved the NPHS 2016-17 Curriculum Guide
- (D) The Board approved the 2nd Reading – Board Policies – 2461 & 9700.01
- (E) The Board accepted and approved the Contracts for Lawn Care and Maintenance
- (F) The Board approved the Entity Change for the Athletic Trainer
- (G) The Board approved the Dual Credit Program MOU between New Prairie High School and Purdue University North Central
- (H) The Board approve the Emergency Pool Repair Resolutions at New Prairie High School
- (I) The Board approved Overnight Field Trip:
 - (1) NPHS Cross Country Team to Participate in Grand Isle Trail Half Marathon
 - (2) NPHS FBLA Members to Attend the State Leadership Conference
 - (3) NPHS Innovation & Sign Sensation Competition
 - (4) NPHS Academic Decathlon State Competition
- (J) The Board approved the New Position Job Description:
 - (1) School Treasurer/Secretary – Elementary /Secondary

DISCUSSION

- Dale Groves asked about the NPHS pool ceiling. Dan Rawlins, Principal/Project Manager from InterDesign, explained that the pool ceiling is currently a cellulose product which is a paper product that has absorbed

a lot of water thus causing it to deteriorate and fall. There is a company called Epic that offers a 20 year solution for the ceiling that is not a cellulose product. The old ceiling will be removed.

- Kelley asked Dan Rawlins about the pool lighting issues that will be addressed. Dan Explained that LED will replace what is now being used. This is a much safer lighting system that is energy efficient.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Dale Groves commented that eLearning is philosophical to him. Do we do it or do we not do it. He has concerns with losing the personal connection between teacher and student. He cannot find data to prove eLearning is better than traditional classroom learning. As a parent, he doesn't want his children taught online. Students are bombarded with technology everyday as it is. He believes technology is available to assist the teacher not replace them.
 - Rich Shail asked Dale his thoughts about the make-up time at the end of the year versus using the snow days during the year for eLearning? Dale responded that yes, it is more difficult to keep kids learning in June but good teachers can make that happen. Also, is there other avenues like make-up days close to spring break versus using eLearning.
 - Al stated that he has spoken to other teachers from other schools using eLearning that love using it so it does not add days to end of the year and they feel it keeps the kids on track with their learning. He sees it as a positive for not having to make up days. Other schools feel it is working and love it.
 - Bill Romstadt stated that he currently is new to teaching and uses technology selectively. He did get his master's degree online. He knows it takes initiative and drive to complete work online.
 - Rich Shail stated that we can always look at a balanced calendar but doesn't feel it will work in this area of the state. He feels there is a lot of merit to keeping kids on track. He is very supportive of eLearning.
- On a motion by Dale Groves the meeting was adjourned.