BOARD NOTES
February 20, 2017

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, February 20, 2017 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, Dale Groves, Phil King, and Dr. Paul White present. The meeting was held in the LGI Room at New Prairie Middle School beginning at 6:00 p.m.

William Romstadt, Board Member, was absent.

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

There was a motion by King to adopt the agenda, seconded by Groves and approved 4-0-1.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

Mrs. Janet Scott, New Prairie Middle School Principal, introduced to the Board members Mr. Daniel Weinberg, NPMS Band Teacher and the NPMS Jazz Band. Mrs. Scott explained that when she was hired as Principal at NPMS one of her goals was to grow the Band Program at the MS level as a feeder program for the high school. Since she was hired the Band program has doubled in the number students. Mr. Weinberg directed a performance by the Jazz Band students before the Board members, superintendent, parents and staff playing 3 songs for a very impressive performance.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
  1. Vicky Mosson – Retirement as Title 1 Teacher at Rolling Prairie Elementary School as of 6/30/2017
  2. Kelli Tanger – Resignation as 5th Grade Teacher at Rolling Prairie Elementary School as of 1/31/2017
  3. Becky Bartlett – Intermittent FMLA Leave as Principal at Rolling Prairie Elementary School beginning 1/31/2017 through 6/12/2017
  4. Lauren Dyer – FMLA Leave as Title I Teacher at Prairie View Elementary beginning 5/4/2017 through 6/30/2017
  5. Ariel Gast – FMLA Leave as NPHS PE Teacher beginning 4/23/2017 through 6/30/2017
  6. Tyler Steele – Resignation as ½ Time Counselor at New Prairie High School as of 2/17/2017
- Employment
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
  1. Robyn Kubsch – New Prairie High School Practical Arts Department Head beginning 7/1/2016
  2. Christine Hunter – New Prairie High School JV Softball Coach beginning 2/20/2017
  3. Neil Hackett – New Prairie High School Freshman Class Sponsor beginning 7/1/2016
- Adjustments

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
  1. Jennifer Maxey – NPUSC Bus Driver, Route #27, Resignation as of 1/20/2017
  2. Adrian Jennings – Resignation as Olive Elementary Instructional Aide as of 2/10/2017
  3. Reed Monesmith – IT Building Technician Resignation as of 2/28/2017
  4. Belinda Weller – Lunch Aide Resignation at Rolling Prairie Elementary as of 3/24/2017

5. Ray Bukovi – FMLA Leave as Bus Driver beginning 1/13/17 through 4/12/2017
6. Gretchen Krivak – Resignation as NPHS Varsity Basketball Coach as of 2/16/2017
7. Mike Krivak – Resignation as NPHS JV & Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach as of 2/17/2017

- Employment
  1. Madison Fadley – Instructional Assistant at Rolling Prairie Elementary beginning 1/30/2017
  2. Bradley Yanok – Instructional Assistant at Prairie View Elementary beginning 1/30/2017
  3. Edward Bonczynski – Corporation Maintenance start date pending criminal background search results
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
  1. Cathleen Lower – New Prairie Middle School Co-Head Coach for Boys/Girls Swimming for the 2016-17 school year
  2. Andrew Maez – Rolling Prairie Elementary 5th Grade Wrestling Coach for the 2016-17 school year
  3. Alan King – Prairie View Elementary 5th Grade Wrestling Coach for the 2016-17 school year
  4. Bobby Whitenack – Olive Elementary 5th Grade Wrestling Coach for the 2016-17 school year
  5. Grail Gast – NPHS Varsity Softball Assistant for the 2016-17 school year
  6. Allen Williamson – NPHS J.V. Baseball Coach for the 2016-17 school year

- Adjustments
  1. Matthew Kipler, NPUSC Bus Aide promoted to Single Route Bus Driver route #27.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. White thanked Mrs. Scott, Mr. Weinberg and the NPMS Jazz Band for a very impressive performance. He stated he is excited for the future of New Prairie's Band Program.
- Dr. White informed the Board that the ISTEP window opens February 27th through March 10th. It is the intent to begin testing immediately leaving time for any make up testing that may be needed before the window closes. The first round of testing will be paper pencil with the second round of testing April 17th through the 28th being completed online.
- IREAD-3 testing is March 15th. Dale Groves questioned when the IREAD results would be returned. Dr. Cannon, Curriculum Director, replied that the scores generally are returned the first week of April.
- Boys Basketball Sectionals are February 28 at Jimtown NP Boys playing Mishawaka Marion. Dr. White wants to congratulate Coach DeShone on a nice job this season.
- Dr. White thanked Gretchen Krivak for her valuable time as NPHS Ladies Varsity Basketball Coach. She did a great job developing basketball feeder programs that have created interest for the young ladies of the corporation. Thank you Gretchen and Mike Krivak.
- Dr. White recognized Mrs. Vicky Mosson who submitted her letter of retirement as a Teacher at Rolling Prairie Elementary School at the end of this school year. Dr. White gave a brief history of Mrs. Mosson's career at NPUSC thanking her for 29 years of service and expressing his best wishes in her retirement.

ACTION ITEMS

(A) The Board accepted donations as follows:

- Rolling Prairie Elementary School received a donation of 22 Sweatpants, and 22 Warm-Up Jackets with "Bulldogs" on the side with an estimated value of $900 from an anonymous donor
- Feed the Children donated 83 lbs. of Children's Books, 66 lbs. School Supplies & 4 lbs. of L'Oreal Products to NPUSC valued at $1,461.86
- Rolling Prairie Elementary School will receive a donation of 12 Bouncy Bands for Student Chairs valued at $180 from Pyramid Equipment, Inc. in Rolling Prairie
- Rolling Prairie Elementary School received a donation of handmade hats and scarves from Mrs. Horton of Rolling Prairie and Delta Beta Phi Sorority donated hats, gloves, sweatpants, socks and underwear all at an undisclosed value
- Rolling Prairie Elementary School received a donation of hats, scarves, and gloves from the Welch family of Rolling Prairie
- NPMS received a donation of $10.00 from JustGive

(B) The Board approved the 2017-2018 School Calendar

(C) The Board approved Drivers Education Program & Fees – 2017

(D) The Board approved the NPHS & NPMS Summer Remediation Programs and Registration for 2017

(E) The Board approved Overnight Field Trip Requests:

- NPHS Academic Decathlon Team to Purdue University, for State Competition February 10 & 11, 2017
- NPHS FBLA Members to Indianapolis for the State Leadership Conference, March 10-12, 2017
- NPHS Dance Team to Noblesville, IN, for the IHSDTA 2017 Dance Competition, March 10 & 11, 2017
- NPHS Cross Country Team to Munising, Michigan to run Grand Isle Trail Half Marathon, July 20 – 23, 2017
- NPMS Dance Team to New Castle High School for the State Competition in Anderson, IN, March 10 & 11, 2017
- Prairie View Elementary School 5th Graders to Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Center, Brookston, IN, April 25-26, 2017

(F) The Board approved the Joint Resolution between New Prairie United School Corporation and South Central Community School Corporation

(G) The Board approved Advertising for Furniture Bids – NPUSC Renovation Project

(H) The Board accepted the Lilly Grant for Comprehensive Counseling Initiative Planning

(I) The Board approved Indiana Youth Institute (IYI) Consultation Letter of Agreement

DISCUSSION

(A) eLearning

- Dale Groves discussed that he wishes to see more data and research on eLearning. He feels that decisions made for students need to be based on research which there is very little research that has been done on eLearning. He maintains that eLearning is not "best practice" for students and feels that a disclaimer needs to be stated to parents in the upcoming newsletter that Dr. White will be sending out that includes a summation of the survey sent out to parents about eLearning. Dale Groves stated a recent study by John Hattie, looking at

impacts on student learning, reports web based learning, while having a positive impact, is not as high on the list as other factors.

- Phil King stated that he understands the article in the newsletter is just a summation of the parent survey on eLearning which is not promoting eLearning. He does not want to create a negative attitude on eLearning by putting out a negative statement to parents after positive survey results.
- Dr. Cannon stated that she will do more research on eLearning and return to the Board with her findings. Dr. Cannon also stated that if the Board wants to state that eLearning is not "best practice" according to Hattie then we must also state retention is also not "best practice" according to Hattie as we practice retention here at New Prairie.
- Al Williamson stated he is not comfortable taking only one source's word on the subject of eLearning or retention.
- Dr. White stated that he feels eLearning is an extension of the 1 to 1 initiative and limited exposure to on-line, web based learning is the best interest of our students. ELearning is an emerging tool. He also clarified web based learning is shown as a positive impact in the Hattie study, but lower on a list of positive programs.
- Rich Shail explained that he agreed to the eLearning as an option for makeup time to see if it was successful for the students. He understands that we are collecting data to find out if this is the "best practice" option. If it does not work then eLearning will be discontinued. He then added that another option is Saturday school as opposed to eLearning. He feels the attendance numbers for eLearning have proved very successful. He does not believe that Saturday school would prove anywhere near as successful. Rich's opinion is not to state that eLearning is not "best practice" until more data has been collected proving it is in fact not "best practice" for NPUSC.
- Al Williamson agrees that until Dr. Cannon returns with her research and more data has been collected he doesn't feel that the statement that eLearning is not "best practice' should be in writing to parents.
- Phil King also agrees with Rich Shail and Al Williamson that after all data has been presented and more research has been compiled, if the findings prove it is in fact not "best practice" then it should be stated as so to parents.
- Rich Shail asked Dr. Cannon to bring her findings and research to the Board in April or May.

(B) <u>Athletic Facilities</u>

- Dr. White explained that he was approached with information on people wanting to raise donated funds for a turf football field. He feels that the group wanting to donate for the new field should receive direction from the Board as to whether a turf field is supported or not.
- Rich Shail asked if the group wanting to upgrade the football field wants turf or they want to improve the football field and what are they expecting in return for the improvements?
- Al Williamson stated they want definite improvements, a turf field, with the expectation of Board support. If they raise the $800,000 for the turf football field they do not want to be told no by the Board.
- Rich Shail added there will be requirements set by the corporation as to what the turf is on the field. Once the turf is installed, who will pay for the maintenance? A work session is necessary.
- Phil King stated that sponsorships could pay for upkeep and there is money out there for help. This field will be available for all NP athletics use. He requests that the pros and cons on turf be presented to him before deciding.
- Dr. White will provide the pros and cons to the Board. Dr. White mentioned that there is some emerging research in question on health issues in soccer players playing on turf fields. This information will be provided to the Board.

- Al Williamson stated that the baseball fields and softball field are in terrible condition and not playable. Our field upkeep is horrendous. If the turf does not happen then something has to be done with the football field.
- It was agreed that an open public work session is to be planned in March on this topic with factual information to be presented and discussed.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Phil King complimented the Jazz Band on their fantastic presentation. He is so glad that the fine arts program is expanding.
- Rich Shail is happy with how the boys' basketball team has really stepped it up. They are fun to watch. He loves sitting in the gym listening to the NP Jazz Band during the games and was thrilled to see the Purdue Band at the game.
- Al Williamson stated that Police Dept., First Responders and many others complimented the NPHS administration on how they responded to Mark Mayfield's emergency. Hats off to our administration.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dale Groves the meeting was adjourned.