

## BOARD NOTES

July 24, 2017

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, July 24, 2017 with Al Williamson, Bill Romstadt, and Phil King present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, and Dr. Carrie Cannon, Asst. Superintendent, were also present

Rich Shail, Board President, and Dale Groves, Board Secretary, were absent.

Al Williamson, Vice President, reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

There was a motion by King to adopt the agenda, seconded by Romstadt and approved 3-0-2.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION**

- NPUSC Transportation Director, Bruce Lasley, gave a presentation on routing buses. Mr. Lasley explained that our corporation covers 1,881 miles a day in general education routes not counting special needs routes or the 6 buses that run to LaPorte every day. There is 200 square miles run a day in our district. Mr. Lasley explained why at times that buses follow buses and it is because sometimes a bus will need to follow a bus to get to the road they must turn on. Our district is very stretched out. Phil King asked about buses pulling completely off the road and not turning on the arm and stop sign. Mr. Lasley explained that it is the law that if the bus can pull completely off the road they must and not turn on the stop sign and arm. Mr. Lasley explained they must plan for all in-district students to ride. At times buses can look empty if students are in sports or other extra-curricular activities. There must be a route for students who drive because if there is an issue with the student driving then we must have a route for that student so they can be picked up or dropped off. Mr. Lasley stated that we do pick up out-of-district students who are transported to a family household in-district as long as the family in-district gives him a notarized letter stating that they approve of the pick-up and drop-off at their home. Phil King asked how much time the bus has to wait for students at their home. Mr. Lasley answered 3 minutes. If a number of students are late to board in the morning on the same day, the bus can be late for school. The Board will considering changing that time limit for waiting for a student to board in the morning.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

- The Board approved the Consent Items:
  - (A) Minutes – June 19, 2017 & July 10, 2017
  - (B) Financial Reports
  - (C) Claims
  - (D) Payroll
  - (E) Personnel Report as follows:

### **CERTIFIED**

- **Leaves/Resignations/Retirements**
  1. Heidi Schellinger – FMLA Leave as NPHS Counselor beginning approximately 8/15/2017 to approximately 10/6/2017
  2. Heather O'Connell – FMLA Leave as Olive Music Teacher beginning approximately 9/15/2017 through 10/27/2017
  3. Brandi Heeter – Extra-Curricular Resignation as Olive 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach as of 7/1/2017
  4. Colleen Henehen – Resignation as New Prairie Middle School Guidance Counselor as of 6/30/2017
- **Employment**

1. Danielle Blosser – New Prairie Middle School Math Teacher beginning 7/1/2017
- **Employment – Extra-Curricular**
  1. Kelsey Castle – Co-Curricular New Prairie High School Girls Golf Coach beginning 7/1/2017
- **Adjustments**

## NON-CERTIFIED

- **Leaves/Resignations/Retirements**
  1. Kathryn Mitchell – Retirement as Athletic/Activities Secretary as of 6/26/2017
  2. Renee Chojnacki – Resignation as Olive Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Instructional Assistant as of 6/29/2019
  3. Taylor Emmons – Resignation as Prairie View Elementary Secretary as of 6/16/17
  4. Susan McLain – Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary Instructional Aide as of 7/8/2017
  5. Charlotte Hunt – Resignation as NPUSC Bus Driver as of 7/10/2017
  6. Edward Bonczynski – Resignation as Corporation Maintenance as of 8/1/2017
  7. Diana Serry – Resignation as Food Service Worker at Olive Elementary as of 7/17/2017
  8. Doris Price – FMLA Leave as Custodian at NPMS beginning 6/26/2017 through 8/31/2017
  9. Robin Savchick – Resignation as New Prairie High School Secretary as of 7/24/17
  10. Jordan Hastings – Termination as Prairie View Elementary Lead Custodian as of 7/24/2017
  11. David Hastings – Resignation as Prairie View Elementary Custodian as of 7/24/2017
  12. Jacob Job – Resignation as Prairie View Elementary Custodian as of 7/24/2017
- **Employment**
  1. Andrew Sopko – NPMS Food Service Aide beginning 8/9/2017 (pending background check results) at \$9.00 per hour
  2. Annette Buell – RPES Food Service Aide beginning 8/9/2017 (pending background check results) at \$9.00 per hour
  3. Kathleen Jack – NPHS 5.5 Hour Food Service Worker beginning 8/9/2017 (pending criminal background check results) at \$9.50 per hour
  4. Kristie Lowman – NPMS 4 Hour Food Service Worker beginning 8/9/2017 (pending criminal background check results) at \$9.50 per hour
  5. Mary Jean Paprocki – NPMS Food Service Aide beginning 8/9/2017 (pending criminal background check results) at \$9.00 per hour
- **Employment – Extra-Curricular**
  1. Jason Flagg – NPHS Asst. Varsity Girls Basketball Coach for the 2017-18 school year
- **Adjustments**
  1. Carla Kellogg, NPHS Food Service Worker transfer to NPMS Food Service worker.
  2. Kellie Sturgeon, Prairie View Elementary Library Aide, will replace Taylor Emmons as Secretary in the office at Prairie View Elementary.
  3. Wayne Johnson, NPUSC Bus Mechanic to be promoted to Head Mechanic as of 7/17/17 at a salary of \$22.14 an hour, with an effective evaluation in 6 months increase hourly rate by \$1.00.
  4. Anne Spahn, NPHS Attendance Secretary transfer position to NPHS Athletic/Activities Secretary as of 7/24/2017 at \$13.97 per hour.

## REPORTS

- State Senator Mike Bohacek & State Representative Jim Pressel were present to give their Legislative update as introduced by Dr. White.

- Senator Bohacek reported that the State expanded funding for Pre-K in St. Joe County but not yet in LaPorte. A 1.6% increase in funding education per year was passed. There is a change in the teacher appreciation grant structure. \$35 per ADM given to school. Another change that will happen in the next 8 years is that the State Superintendent, which is currently an elected position, will become the Governor's appointee. Additional programs such as a Force Commitment Program for addicts as well as a Needle Exchange Program are being provided to counties wanting to implement them. The Roads Bill is a big issue with 78 million dollars earmarked for LaPorte County. Dr. White asked about teacher recruitment and retention. He noticed that very few teachers out of college are applying for positions. There is currently a program where students are offered free education which in turn they teach for 5 years after graduation. Very few LaPorte County high school students took the opportunity to apply for this program. Senator Bohacek feels this needs to be promoted to high school students.
- State Representative, Jim Pressel promised the money allocated for road funding will go to the roads and nowhere else. Dr. White asked about Cougar Road and Hwy 2 turning traffic and if that will be addressed. Jim Pressel responded that he has a meeting this week regarding that problem and that he is passionate about making this a top priority along with the stretch of Hwy 20 where the most accidents happen. Dr. Carrie Cannon brought up the new mandated difference of 25% between Highly Effective and Effective teachers and stated that she hopes this is revisited next year as the question of fairness is a hard sell to ISTEP teachers. Jim Pressel asked about how the change was received regarding the change from ISTEP to ILEARN. Dr. Cannon responded that the constant changing is hard because we are getting used to the new ISTEP and starting to compile data. With testing changes there is constant PD which costs money. Reducing test time reduces the amount of questions for the student to answer thus making it harder for kids to pass. Reducing the testing window from two to one would be preferred using the same ISTEP test. Dr. White asked about the Federal Law ESSA which will not count the general diploma student as a graduate or be counted in graduation rates. Jim Pressel stated that he will have Walorski's & Donnelly's office explain this new law to him and he will follow up with us.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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|-----------|-----|---|
|           | (A) | The Board accepted Donations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northwest Indiana Area Health Education Center donated \$2,070 to HOSA to cover the National Leadership Conference Registrations</li> <li>• Feed the Children donated 30 lbs. of School Supplies, and 39 lbs. of New Childrens Books valued at \$657.18</li> </ul> |
| Education | (B) | The Board approved the Updated Purdue University Teacher Affiliation Agreement  |
| Policy    | ©   | The Board approved the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading and Adoption of revised Board 5111   |
| Jim       | (D) | The Board approved Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements for Holifield   |
|           | (E) | The Board approved the School Bus Replacement Plan for 2017   |

## **DISCUSSION**

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Phil King welcomed back administrators.
- Al Williamson thanked the Transportation Department for their informative presentation and for all they do every day. He also thanked State Senator Mike Bohacek and State

Representative Jim Pressel for being here to present their Legislative update and for all they do.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by King the meeting was adjourned.