

BOARD NOTES
January 22, 2018

The regular meeting of the School Board was held at New Prairie Middle School in the LGI Room on Monday, January 22, 2018 with Al Williamson, Dale Groves, Bill Romstadt and Phil King present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was also present.

Rich Shail was absent.

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

There was a motion by Groves to amend the agenda separating Action Item B to Action Item B1 approving William Romstadt's Conflict of Interest Statement, and B2 approving Ashley Williamson's Conflict of Interest Statement to be voted on separately. The motion to amend the agenda was seconded by King and approved 4-0-1.

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

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – December 18, 2017, January 8, 2018
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Judy Bubanovich – Intermittent FMLA Leave beginning 1/1/2018 to 6/30/2018 as NPMS 7th Grade Lit/Comp Teacher
- Employment
 1. Janelle Taylor – 21st Century Teacher for the After-School Program at Olive Elementary at \$20.00 per hour beginning 1/9/2018 for the 2017-18 school year
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Christy Pietrzak – World Language Department Chairperson at NPHS beginning 1/8/2018
- Adjustments

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Bethanne Howard – Resignation as 21st Century After-School Program Assistant at Rolling Prairie Elementary School as of 12/20/2017
 2. Eric Nelson – Termination of Employment as a Custodian at New Prairie High School as of 1/15/2018
 3. Ed Battleday – Termination of Employment as a Custodian at New Prairie High School as of 1/15/2018
 4. Kellie Sturgeon – FMLA Leave as Prairie View Secretary beginning 12/19/2017 through 1/15/2018

- Employment
 1. Connor McKnight – 21st Century Instructional Assistant for the After School Program at Olive Elementary at \$10.00 per hour beginning 1/9/2018 for the 2017-18 school year
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Julie Jeszenszky – Co-Assistant Boys Track Coach for the 2017-18 school year
 2. John Rose – Co-Assistant Boys Track Coach for the 2017-18 school year
- Adjustments
 1. Melissa Adnson transfer from NPMS Building Secretary to Administrative Assistant to the Director of Building and Grounds and the Director of Technology at \$14.22 per hour beginning January 29, 2018.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. White reported that the Calendar Committee met and began discussing the Calendar for 2018-2019. We are currently monitoring the bill in the State Legislature that may require all schools not to start until the 4th Monday in August. The committee would love to see a similar calendar to this year but depends on the legislature's decision.
- Dr. White thanked Mrs. Scott and her staff for all the work done for the work session. She is commended for an incredible job. Thank you to Mrs. Allen for her time spent on the FACS program and her professionalism.
- John Kirk, DLZ Construction Representative, has begun his work reviewing the project planning and has presented some questions and comments that need to be reviewed. Tim Short gave his update on the ongoing projects. He reported that the west end classrooms are painted, ceiling grids and lighting are being installed. Next week rooms will be cleaned up and carpet will be going in. IDF room has been partitioned off and is being painting. MDF room demolition has been completed. The new masonry walls are complete. On the east end of the building, a large amount of concrete was poured with underground plumbing $\frac{3}{4}$ done. Installation of some stands for plumbing fixtures has started along with walls being raised. Block in the kiln room has been started with stud walls being started as well. Excavation in the courtyard will begin pending weather.
- Al Williamson asked if there is a minimum temperature at which concrete can be poured. Tim explained that the ground cannot be frozen when pouring concrete so you will see blankets covering the ground during excavation prior to pouring in weather that is below freezing. Concrete protects itself by generating heat while curing, however there are blankets that are used to cover concrete as well to protect it from freezing. They will pour concrete at 20 degrees on a day that will warm up.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted Donations:
- Rolling Prairie Community Center donated the Video "Going Rolling" to NPUSC
 - Olive Elementary received a donation of 35 new bikes and bike helmets for families in need for Christmas from Kiewit Power Constructors and St Joseph Energy Center
 - Fryar Orthodontics donated \$250.00 toward the NPHS AP Student Conference to be held Saturday, February 3, 2018 at NPHS

- Feed the Children donated:
 - 15 lbs. of School Supplies
 - 197 lbs. of New Childrens Books
 - All valued at \$2,479.89
 - New Prairie High School FFA received donations of:
 - All plant starts, seeds, land and tools from Five Star Sheets along with a cash donation of \$3,016.32
 - Planter sand tractor, water truck, herbicide and fertilizer plus applications, fall tillage from Red Hen Turf Farm
 - Fall cover crop seed and seedlings from Baltes Farms
 - Cash donation of \$250 from LaPorte County Farm Bureau
 - 50 birdhouses valued at \$185.00 from Tractor Supply Company of LaPorte
- (B1) The Board accepted Conflict of Interest Statements for:
- William Romstadt
- (B2) The Board accepted Conflict of Interest Statements for:
- Ashley Williamson
- (C) The Board approved Updated Position Description:
- NPMS Building Secretary
- (D) The Board approved the Everything DiSC – Work of Classified Leaders Workshop

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- (A) 1st Reading of Updated Board Policies Vol. 30 No. 1:
1220, 1521, 2221, 2262, 3121, 3131, 3220.01, 4121, 5330, 5350, 5460, 5730, 6152, 8121, 8330, 8462, 8800
- The Board members did not have any questions regarding these policy updates.
- (B) Bus Wait Time
- Dr. White addressed the Board with the question as to what is a reasonable time buses should wait on a student if the student is not out at the bus stop. In the interest of the community we need to discuss this issue and recommends coming up with a set time as wait time has been up to 3 minutes recently.
 - Phil King asked if the issue is with groups of kids or individual houses. Dr. White responded that it is with individual houses.
 - Dale Groves asked if homes are called when students aren't out waiting. Dr. White responded that calls are made while drivers are waiting or calls are made to parents when students are habitually late to the bus reminding parents that students need to be out and ready. Post cards of bus stop times are sent to every student the beginning of the year.
 - Al Williamson is under the impression that there is a set time the bus will wait. Dr. White stated that there was at one time but it has become lax and an issue. Phil King stated he thinks at times it depends on the bus driver.
 - Dr. White feels we need to provide clarity on wait time so we can have more consistency. He feels no more than 30 to 45 seconds is a reasonable number. The Board members agree with 30 to 45 seconds max. Dr. White will communicate with Bruce Lasley, Transportation Director, to implement the agreed upon wait time with the drivers for more consistency.

(C) 2018-19 School Calendar

- Phil King understands we are waiting on legislation but wouldn't it start in 2019?
- Bill Kaminski has heard on good authority that the bill will die in committee.
- Dr. White responded that he had heard through the IAPSS and ISBA that the bill had a real chance on passing. The committee has a draft that is similar to this year and another draft of what would happen if legislature passes the bill. At the February meeting a calendar will be presented similar to this year. Direction from the Board is requested regarding cancellation makeup dates and eLearning. It was asked by the committee if we could begin with eLearning and makeup the day off on the spot instead of the traditional built in makeup dates. We could increase the number of eLearning days in case it is a year of many make-up days or leave it at the 4 we have currently along with the 2 built in makeup days. Early Release Dates perhaps add 1 or 2.
- Dale Groves requested not adding any more eLearning days until there is enough research that it is best practice. The rest of the calendar he will support if it is like what we had this past year.
- Bill Romstadt asked about shortening the Christmas Break.
- Phil King stated that we had the same break as LaPorte.
- Dr. White said it was because of where Christmas fell on the calendar last year.
- Bill Romstadt asked about considering later. He feels starting the second week in August is really early. Dr. White explained that if we back up the start in late August, it can limit us if we have makeup time in May so we don't go beyond Graduation Day with make-up days.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Dale Groves thanked everyone who attended the work session tonight. We will take everything said tonight into consideration. We want what everyone else wants.
- Bill Romstand thanked all those who attended the work session. It was good to see a nice turnout. We want to make a decision that will benefit the kids, that is why we are here. Thank you to those who provided the extra data to help us make our decision.

Dale Groves made the motion to adjourn.