

Board Notes

April 22, 2024

The regular meeting of the School Board was held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 22, 2024, at Rolling Prairie Elementary School in The Pack Room with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Jason DeMeyer, Mrs. Jill Smith, Mr. Dale Groves and Mr. Rich Gadacz present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was present.

Mr. Phil King, Board President, reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

There was a motion by Mr. Groves to Amend the Agenda moving the Instructional Presentation to follow Action Items, seconded by Mr. Gadacz and approved 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board suspended the Regular Meeting of the School Board to hold the Public Hearing on the Superintendent's Contract. There were no comments or discussion from the Board Members or the public on the Superintendent's Contract. The Board closed the Public Hearing and returned to the Regular Meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – March 25, 2024
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report as follows:

Certified

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Gabriel Chavez – Resignation as NPHS Social Studies Teacher, and Assistant Football Coach effective 6/30/2024
 2. Gary Hixenbaugh – Retirement as NPMS Mathematics Teacher effective 6/30/2024 after 29 years of service to students and staff
 3. Tina Stombaugh – Retirement as Olive Twp. Elementary School 2nd Grade Teacher effective 6/30/2024 after 34 years of service to students and staff
 4. Gale Gonder – Retirement as NPHS Mathematics Teacher after 41 years of service at NPHS effective 6/1/2024
 5. Michele Kenaga – Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary School 4th Grade Teacher effective 6/30/2024
- Employment
- Employment – Co. & Extra-Curricular, and Summer 2023-24
 1. Tara Curless – Summer Fitness Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 2. Vincent Dominello – Summer Art Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 3. Casey Gumm - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 4. Ashley Duschek - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 5. Lisa Smiertelny - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 6. Kara Mamazza - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 7. Laura Schreiber - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 8. Julie Kirkham - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 9. Ashley Hernandez - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 10. Amy Wolfe - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 11. Kim Stepp - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 12. Cassie Pavey - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 13. Cheryl Karczewski - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 14. Shalon Kirkwood - Summer Camp Instructor paid by HFL Grant
 15. Jacobie Blair – 3E Summer Spanish Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant

16. Juan Gomez - 3E Summer Adv. Manufacturing Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant
17. Juan Gomez - 3E Summer Robotics Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant
18. Keith Hite - 3E Summer Construction Trades Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant
19. Sarah Huff - 3E Summer Education Professions Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant
20. Cheryl Karczewski - 3E Summer Agriculture Plant & Animal Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant
21. David McGhee - 3E Summer Visual Arts Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant
22. Maria Sobbecki - 3E Summer Biomedical Science Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant
23. Terrie Sult - 3E Summer Digital Design Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant

- Adjustments

1. Crystal Snyder, current 7th Grade Science Teacher at New Prairie Middle School, to voluntarily transfer to New Prairie High School as Science Teacher beginning 7/1/2024.
2. Lisa Smiertelny, current grade 3 Teacher at Rolling Prairie Elementary School to voluntarily transfer to Regular Teacher Contract Academic Interventionist at Rolling Prairie Elementary School.
3. Jennifer Smith, current English Language Arts Teacher at New Prairie Middle School to voluntarily transfer to Regular Teacher Contract Academic Interventionist at New Prairie Middle School.

Classified

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement

1. Michael Bilinski – Retirement as NPHS Lead Custodian effective 6/30/2024
2. Elizabeth Skorup – Resignation as Custodian effective 4/26/2024

- Employment

1. Britney Liverman – Custodian at Rolling Prairie Elementary School beginning 4/8/2024

- Employment – Co. & Extra-Curricular, and Summer 2023-24

1. Daniel Leffert – NPHS Student, Summer 2023-24 Intern Cabling for Tech Dept.
2. Nicholas Barnes - NPHS Student, Summer 2023-24 Intern Cabling for Tech Dept.
3. Emily Kmak - NPHS Student, Summer 2023-24 Intern 1:1 Devices for Tech Dept.
4. Nicholas Rollins - NPHS Student, Summer 2023-24 Intern 1:1 Devices for Tech Dept.
5. Aidan Whiteman - NPHS Student, Summer 2023-24 Intern 1:1 Devices for Tech Dept.
6. Lydia Chappell - NPHS Student, Summer 2023-24 Intern 1:1 Devices for Tech Dept.
7. Griffin Ernst – NPHS Student, Summer 2023-2024 Custodian
8. Jason Clemons – NPMS 8th Grade Head Boys Basketball Coach for the 2024-2025 School year
9. Jamie Black - Summer Health Aide paid by HFL Grant
10. Jason Clemons - 3E Summer Business Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant
11. Kristine Gadacz - 3E Summer Computer Science Cougar Career Camp paid by the 3E Grant

- Adjustments

1. Lindsey Cole, NPHS Guidance/Nurse Secretary, to transfer positions to NPMS as Library Aide, effective date TBD.
2. Amanda Nelson, NPMS Athletic/Guidance Secretary, to add NPMS Treasurer duties to her secretarial position. Amanda will receive \$1.00 per hour more effective 4/22/2024
3. Cierra Graham, current Rolling Prairie Elementary School Custodian, to transfer to Olive Twp. Elementary Custodian effective 4/9/2024.

REPORTS

- Dr. White recognized the HOSA students from the Middle School and High School that qualified for International Competition. Dr. White introduced Mrs. Tonya Aerts, NPHS Coach and Ms. Jenn Smith, NPMS Coach, who then introduced the students present and asked them to tell the Board a little bit about their event at International Competition this summer. Dr. White and the School Board congratulated the students and their coaches stating how proud they are and presented the students with certificates.
- Dr. White announced that there will be a College and Career Fair, May 9th at New Prairie Middle School. It is an all-day event for students and an evening event for families. There will be food and fun activities with 32 businesses present all day engaging with students about their options in their particular fields of work.
- Dr. White then congratulated the retiring teachers whom have all made a strong impact during their careers on students especially and the school system. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated adding that they will all be missed.
- Dr. White concluded his report by stating he attended the New Prairie Theatre Company production of "All's well in Roswell (isn't it)?" which was fun and great to see. He thanked Mr. Renwand and the students for a job well done.

ACTION ITEMS

(A) The Board accepted Donations as Listed:

- NPUSC Angel Fund received the following donations:
 1. Gordon Millar donated \$150
 2. Catherine Mrozinski donated \$50
 3. Steven & Laura Shumate donated \$100
 4. New Carlisle United Methodist Church donated \$265
 5. Culver's Give Back day donation of \$250
- NPMS received a donation of \$100 from Lukas Hannewyk to use for Teacher Appreciation Week
- New Prairie High School Athletic Department received a donation of a weight bench, bar and weight plates from the family of Rodney Hoffer

(B) The Board approved Handbooks for the 2024-2025 school year:

- General Elementary Handbook
- NPMS Student/Parent & Athletic Handbooks
- NPHS Student/Parent Handbook
- NPHS Athletic Policy Handbook

(C) The Board approved the Emergency Repair on the Chiller at Rolling Prairie Elementary
Paid from Operations Fund

(D) The Board approved the revised MOU with LaPorte County Health Dept.

(E) The Board approved Overnight Field Trip Requests

(F) The Board approved the Renewal with FORTRA for 2024-2025 school year

(G) The Board approved the Renewal with AHEAD for 2024-2025 school year

(H) The Board approved the Contract with Acorn Sound to Replace Paging and Bell System for NPMS 2024-2025 school year

(I) The Board approved the Renewal with Level Data for 2024-2025

(J) The Board approved the following closure of classes to Out of District Transfer Students for 2024-2025:

- Olive Twp. Elementary Grades 2 and 5
- Prairie View Elementary Grade 5

(K) The Board approved the Renewal of PowerSchool Perform/Unified Talent Evaluation Software for 2024-2025

(L) The Board approved the PowerSchool Student Platform Contract for Naviance

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Dr. Moore, Rolling Prairie Elementary School Principal, along with a few of her Leadership Team Members, Mrs. Krissy Surma, Mrs. Amy Wolfe, and Mrs. Lisa Smiertelny did their presentation on the “Great Things Happening at Rolling Prairie Elementary School”. Dr. Moore highlighted the themes to be presented by the Leadership Team: focusing on connections made with families, staff, students as well as students with staff; celebrations and understanding the importance of celebrating even the smallest accomplishment; and focusing on growth. Dr. Moore concluded by listing Rolling Prairie Elementary School accomplishments: National Blue-Ribbon School; 1st Indiana Heart Safe Elementary School; and that Rolling Prairie Elementary School has met the Indiana Literacy Goal (IREAD-3) 95% or higher. Dr. Moore stated that work and fun have been fruitful.
- Dr. White thanked Dr. Moore for her leadership and work. He thanked the Leadership Team Members - Mrs. Surma, Mrs. Wolfe and Mrs. Smiertelny for their presentation tonight.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Gadacz stated that the Rolling Prairie Elementary School presentation was excellent. There is a lot of energy in this school. Mr. Gadacz added that HOSA is once again doing great things.
- Mr. Groves concurs that great things are happening at New Prairie with great people that translates to our students. Thank you very much!
- Mr. DeMeyer stated that he has 2 kids here at Rolling Prairie and from a parent’s prospective the good things happening here does come home. Mr. DeMeyer thanked the staff very much.
- Mrs. Smith thanked the Leadership Team and Dr. Moore for their great presentation. It is great to see what is happening here at Rolling Prairie. She also congratulated the HOSA students again and wished them luck at International competition in June.
- Mr. King stated that it was a fantastic presentation. He went on that all the good things happening at Rolling Prairie doesn’t really surprise him because the staff here always goes over and beyond as he has witnessed for many years. Mr. King thanked the staff for what they have done for our students.
- Mr. King reminded everyone once again about May 9th, the College and Career Fair at New Prairie Middle School.
- Mr. King addressed some misinformation that was published by a subpar, so called journalist. It should be noted that the Superintendent of Schools does not hire anyone. In most cases the Administration Team, including the Superintendent, recommends to the Board potential hires then it is up to the Board to approve the recommendations and hire through a majority vote at a public meeting. Mr. King intended to make this point very clear.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. King asked if the Board had any further business. The Board had no further business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.