

BOARD NOTES  
March 24, 2014

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, March 24, 2014 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, Dale Groves, Bernie Baltes and Phil King present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION**

- Matt Flagg presented his New Prairie Middle School Math Team Members who placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the state finals. Mr. Dermody thanked Mr. Flagg for coaching his team to state competition. Mr. Dermody passed out certificates to the students while giving special thanks to Mrs. Henning for all her help as a state finals Chaperone.
- Mr. Dermody recognized the Spelling Bee winners who finished on top in the LaPorte County Spelling Bee competition and those who qualified for Regional as well.
- Tiffany Galus presented her top winners from the ISSMA competition. She stated that both Bands also won top honors in the recent choir competition. Mr. Dermody presented certificates to those students as well as commended Ms. Galus on her leadership ability. Mr. Dermody stated that he is proud of the great things that are happening at New Prairie which these student accomplishments exemplify.
- Jessica Sinka presented her Honors English 10 Project Based Learning students. The students did a PowerPoint presentation on what their group has accomplished and what they have learned from their hard work. Mrs. Sinka explained that State Standards had to be strictly followed for all their projects. The students stated how they needed to do projects based on service to the community. They have done such projects as the Haunted Halloweekend, Trunk or Treat for the elementary students, Food Drive and many other projects that promote literacy. The students are thrilled that their projects have been very successful.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
  - Minutes – February 24, 2014
  - Financial Reports
  - Claims
  - Payroll
  - Personnel as follows:

## **CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
  1. Deborah Varga – New Prairie High School, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, retirement effective 6/30/2014.
  2. Cynthia Borne – Rolling Prairie Elementary School Art Teacher, retirement effective 6/5/14
  3. Karen VanOverberghe – Middle School Math Teacher – FMLA Leave beginning 3/4/14 – 5/27/14
  4. Susan Koziel – Prairie View Math Bowl Coach Resignation as of 2/28/14
  5. Sharon Bashaw – Prairie View 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher – FMLA Leave beginning 3/11/14 – 4/25/14
  
- Employment
  1. Julie Schroeder – Prairie View/Olive Elementary PE Teacher – Returning on an amended contract from approved Unpaid Leave beginning 3/24/14.
  2. Tammy Moore – Homebound Instructor for a NP Middle School Student
  3. Jinfei Zhang – Chinese Teacher - Hiring is pending Background Check return.
  4. Margaret Kirkwood-Quintana –Spanish Teacher replacing Natalie Krause while on FMLA Leave beginning 3/17/2014 for approximately 4 – 6 weeks.
  
- Employment – Extra-Curricular

## **NON-CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
  
- Employment
  1. Robert Huffman – Staff Evaluator receiving a \$1,500.00 Stipend – Beginning 3/7/2014
  2. Karen Swanson – Substitute Bus Driver – Beginning 3/17/14
  3. Tom Dudeck – Substitute Bus Driver – Beginning 3/4/14
  4. Wayne Johnson – Bus Garage Mechanic – Approximate Begin Date 3/25/14
  5. Suzanne Simmermeyer – Substitute Teacher for Sharon Bashaw beginning 3/11/14 – 4/25/14.
  6. Kelly Sturgeon – Substitute Teacher Aide for Suzanne Simmermeyer beginning 3/11/14 - 4/25/14.
  
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
  1. Sara Timm – ½ Head Swim Coach – MS
  2. John Hooper Jr. – ½ Assistant High School Baseball Coach
  3. Eric Lower – Middle School Assistant Swim Coach
  4. Joel Hostetler – Head High School Girls Tennis Coach
  5. Teresa Hostetler – Assistant High School Girls Tennis Coach

- Adjustments

Scott Kresca – Activity Center Director – Per Activity Center Agreement, Scott received his Bachelor’s Degree increasing his salary and benefits from \$30,000 to \$37,000.

Mr. Dermody recognized Debra Varga, NPHS Family and Consumer Science teacher, who will be retiring June 30, 2014 after 37 years of dedicated service to the Corporation and her students. Mr Dermody also recognized Cynthia Borne, Art Teacher at Rolling Prairie Elementary and Olive Elementary, who will also be retiring after 36 years of service as of June 6, 2014. Both extraordinary women will be missed.

## **REPORTS**

- Superintendent’s Reports

- Olive Elementary won a Channel 22 competition two weeks ago. Channel 22’s Meteorologist, Abbey Weppeler, came to the school to read to the students which everyone enjoyed.
- Middle School Robotics attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Robotics Competition. Out of 24 teams from all over the Midwest, New Prairie Middle School was the only middle school team present. Mr. Hobart has been working with the Middle School students to promote the high school program.
- Two high school choirs competed in the ISSMA State competitions and both placed very high.
- Mr. Dermody recognized Mr. & Mrs. Baltess for their sponsorship of the Unity Foundation New Prairie Athletic Capital Fund.
- Tara Bush, Principal of Olive Elementary, & Rhonda Meyers, Principal of Prairie View Elementary, reported very successful Kindergarten Round-Ups with a large number of new students.
- Scott Kresca, Director of the Bulldog/Bobcat Clubs, reported that he has created a Mission Statement with a focus on education. He stated that he has had success with the high school student mentors. He implemented the same curriculum that the elementary schools use. He has had IU Health come in to lead exercise and nutritional enrichment. LaPorte County Library has come in to read. iPads are now being used. He put in place Safety rules which have resulted in a decline in incident and accident reports. He also reports discipline is considerably better. The Anti-Bullying program is starting for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. He reports his challenges are that his assistants want more hours. Scott stated funding is key. He is excited that there will be Summer Programs this year.
- Mr. Dermody stated that the “Activity Center” name is officially changed to “Bulldog and Bobcat Clubs”. Mr. Dermody also added that he appreciates all the hard work Scott Kresca has put into making the program a success.
- The spring play will be presented in late April. More information is forthcoming. The dates are the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

- Last week the Indiana State Police presented their Crisis Prevention Response program to the entire staff of NPUSC. A special “thank you” to Mr. Al Williamson for all his help with putting the training together. The staff felt the program was very worthwhile.
- History Fairs are currently going on in the elementary schools.
- Mr. Dermody reported that Olive Elementary School won the local math competition. Prairie View won second and Rolling Prairie finished third.
- Kelley Kitchen was nominated by IASBO for the Region 1 Director then won the position by a unanimous vote. Congratulations to Kelley for winning the directorship!

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- (A) The Board approved Summer School – 2014
  - Instrumental Ensemble – NPHS
  - Exploring Music – NPMS
  - PLATO Program – NPHS/NPMS
  - Grade 3 Elementary Reading
  - Bobcat & Bulldog Club Summer Program
  - Success By Six Summer Program
- (B) The Board approved the Summer Cougar Camps – 2014
- (C) The Board approved the Overnight Field Trip Request
  - HOSA State Conference in Indianapolis, April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.
- (D) The Board accepted the following donations:
  - Jack Jones Donated \$500.00 to Prairie View Elementary School to promote effective writing skills of students.
  - Memorial Library & Art Collection of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War donates a mini-grant of \$750.00 to New Prairie High School.
  - LaPorte County United Way Donation of \$18,000.00 for the Success By Six Program.
- (E) The Board approved the 5-12 Schoology Learning Management System.
- (F) The Board adopted the Reimbursement Resolution for Phase 2 – Energy Savings HVAC.
- (G) The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, Inc.
- (H) The Board approved the 2014-15 School Year Meal Pricing Recommendation.
- (I) The Board approved the cancellation of old checks.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- (A) 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Board Policies – Volume 26, No. 1
  - #0150,1630.1, 1662, 3362, 3419.1, 3430.01, 4362, 4419.01, 4430.01, 5111, 5517, 5517.01, 5630.01, 6144, 6151, 7217
- (B) NPUSC is awarded the \$1,100,000.00 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Grant. Carrie Cannon, Rhonda Meyers, and Kelley Kitchen worked extremely hard to write this grant that earned

NPUSC the ability to implement many amazing programs for our students. The grant has intense accountability but is worth the massive amount of work Carrie and Rhonda will take on. Congratulations to Carrie, Rhonda, Kelley, and the New Prairie United School Corporation.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Bernie Baltes wants to emphasize the importance of doing a better job of advertising and promoting the great things happening at New Prairie United School Corporation.
- Dale Groves wants to thank Carrie, Rhonda, and Kelley for all their hard work with the Grant. He is very excited about what this will mean for the Corporation and its students.
- Al Williamson is also very excited about the potential for helping every student.
- Phil King offers his congratulations and his thank you.
- Rich Shail, once again, wants to thank Carrie, Rhonda, and Kelley for the countless hours of hard work that went into the grant. This award speaks highly of everyone on staff at NPUSC.