

BOARD NOTES
April 28, 2014

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, April 28, 2014 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, Dale Groves, Bernie Baltus and Phil King present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Rhonda Myers, Principal of Prairie View Elementary School, who introduced her two Girls on the Run coaches and 4 of the 15 team members that were present to explain about their club. This is the first year for this program, which was so successful, that the other two elementary schools will sponsor this program next school year as well. The students meet every week and run as well as talk about nutrition, how to build self-esteem and community service projects.
- Julie Jerzak, NPHS Teacher and FBLA Sponsor, and presented her 2014 FBLA State Leadership Conference Winners to the Board. Mr. Dermody presented certificates to the state winners.
- Tonya Aerts and Laurel Laughlin, both NPHS PLTW Science Teachers, recognized their State 1st place HOSA winners who are advancing to National Competition in Orlando, FL in June. Certificates were given by Mr. Dermody.
- Chad Strasser, Choir Director, introduced his Sing Sensation Choir and Innovation Choir officers. The Choirs competed in State competitions for the first time in NPHS history earning 6th and 7th places. Mr. Dermody presented certificates and congratulations.

The Board approved suspension of the regular meeting of the School Board to hold a 1028 meeting with all Board members present.

- Kelley Kitchen explained the need for the proposed HVAC and other capital improvements at the New Prairie High School and the Rolling Prairie Elementary School. The estimated project scope, cost and schedule was then presented to the public. Curt Pletcher of H.J. Umbaugh & Associates Certified Public Accountants, LLP, then explained how the project could be funded and the tax rate impact.
- Jimmy Shanahan, of Shanahan & Shanahan LLP, bond counsel, explained that the project was expected to cost more than one million dollars and that under Indiana law whenever a school corporation proposed to construct or renovate a school building at a cost in excess of one million dollars it must first hold a public hearing.

The Board adjourned the 1028 Hearing to resume the regular meeting of the School Board.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- Minutes – March 24, 2014
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Jean Dare – Olive Elementary – Instructional Bridges Assistant - Retirement effective 6/5/2014
 2. Arlene Hudgens – Corporation Nurse – Retirement effective 6/4/14
 3. Harry Beebe – Middle School Teacher & Coach – Retirement effective 6/5/14
 4. Jim Holifield – New Prairie Middle School Principal – Resignation beginning 6/28/2014
 5. Gail Bannister – Middle School Music Teacher – Resignation beginning 6/5/14
 6. Alexa Kutch– New Prairie High School Math Teacher – FMLA Leave beginning 4/18/14 – 7/11/14
 7. Stephanie Bellinger – Rolling Prairie Elementary School 3rd Grade Teacher – Resignation effective 3/31/2014
 8. Tiffany Galus – Director of Bands – Resignation effective 6/8/14
 9. Chad Strasser – Choral Director High School – Resignation effective 6/8/14
 10. Chad Strasser – Choral Director High School – FMLA Leave beginning 3/28/14 – 4/15/14
 11. Stacey Vetter-Weiss – Part-Time Spanish Teacher - New Prairie High School – Resignation beginning 6/5/14
 12. Ardeth Ross – Family & Consumer Science Teacher – Middle School – Retirement as of 6/5/14
- Employment
 1. Vincent Dominello – 5th Grade Teacher Rolling Prairie Elementary transferring to Art Teacher- Rolling Prairie Elementary/Olive Elementary for the 2014-15 School Year
 2. Benjamin Strole – High School Math Teacher pending receipt of Background Screening – Beginning 7/1/14
- Employment – Summer School – Driver’s Training
 1. Marty Mosson
 2. Brian Lindorf
 3. Mark Belsaas
 4. Mark McBride
 5. Russ Radtke

6. Ryan Radtke
 7. Doug Snyder
 8. Larry Szczechowski
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Lori Rose – New Prairie Middle School Teacher – 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Haylee Presley – Prairie View Elementary – Half-Time Food Service Aide – Unpaid Leave of Absence beginning April 14, 2014.
 2. Michelle Bennitt – NPMS Cafeteria – Resignation Beginning 4/25/14
 3. Jillianne Stratton – Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant – Resignation Beginning 5/26/14
 4. Debbie Vascil – Bus Driver- FMLA Leave beginning 4/28/14 – 5/23/14
 5. Kay Schneider – High School Custodian – FMLA Leave beginning 4/22/14 – 8/15/14
- Employment
 1. Nichole Ross – Activity Center Program Assistant – Beginning 3/31/14
- Employment – Full Time Custodial Worker Pool starting at \$10.50 per hour and a .25 cent differential for the third shift as of 6/1/14
 1. Tony Ramaekers
 2. Ron Butt
 3. Tom Bradley
 4. Doug Wilhelm
 5. John Mills
 6. Robert Hart
 7. Doris Price
- Employment – Full Time Custodial Worker starting at \$8.00 per hour with benefits as of 6/1/14
 1. Tim Simms
- Employment – Part Time Custodial Worker Pool starting at \$10.50 per hour with no benefits and a .25 cent differential for third shift employees as of 6/1/14
 1. Mike Kaletha
 2. Mike Bilinski
 3. Cody Simms
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. John Arndt – NPMS Assistant Boy’s Track Coach
 2. Brian Schroll – Assistant Wrestling Coach
 3. Al King – ½ Middle School Wrestling Coach
- Adjustments

1. Bruce Lasley - \$1,000.00 Stipend for exceptional performance and dedication related to safe school decisions made during the 2013-14 School Year.

Mr. Dermody recognized the retirees effective the end of the school year: Jean Dare, Bridges Specialist at Olive Elementary; Harry Beebe, Social Studies- PE Health Teacher at New Prairie Middle School; Arlene Hudgens, Director of Health Services and Ardeth Ross, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at New Prairie Middle School. Mr. Dermody spoke about each individual in a complimentary way adding that they will all be missed. Mr. Dermody also recognized Jim Holifield who recently announced his resignation and spoke on how he will be missed.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - A Facilities Report will be presented at the May meeting.
 - Craig Langhofer from Edward Jones in New Carlisle has sponsored two of New Prairie's students to attend Leader Cast in LaPorte. This is a nationally televised leadership day.
 - Jim and Becky Bartlett have been in contact with LaPorte County YMCA to implement a Pre-School Morning Program at Rolling Prairie Elementary School. The goal is that by the May meeting there will be a proposal before the Board.
 - Greg Dettinger gave a report on how the high school has finalized the schedule for the 2014-15 school. He stated how effectively they were able to schedule all students in the programs and classes they want and need.
 - Jim reported that Director Kortney Brennan and her students have done an excellent job with the play this year. Athletes, Band and Choir students all proved their myriad of talents at New Prairie High School.
 - Jim wants to schedule a Board retreat this summer and needs a date that all Board Members and administrators can attend.
 - The Nature Trail Cleanup was Saturday, April 26th, headed by Larry Cadwell and Saugany Lake Conservation Club. We are grateful for all their efforts.
 - There has been a proposal from the Community Food Pantry of Rolling Prairie to have Mr. Cadwell take over the raising of vegetables at Rolling Prairie Elementary and Prairie View Elementary. The NPUSC will support this request.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board approved the Food Service Account Write -Offs
- (B) The Board approved the resolution electing to enlarge participation in the Public Employees' Retirement Fund
- (C) The Board approved the updated Position Descriptions
- (D) The Board approved the Overnight Field Trip Request for FBLA
- (E) The Board approved the AP-TIP Memorandum of Understanding

- (F) The Board adopted the 1028 Resolution
- (G) The Board adopted the 2014 General Obligation Bond Resolution
- (H) The Board authorized the Hearing on additional appropriation for the General Obligation Bond
- (I) The Board approved second reading of Board Policies-
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 - #0150,1630.1, 1662, 3362, 3419.1, 3430.01, 4362, 4419.01, 4430.01, 5111, 5517, 5517.01, 5630.01, 6144, 6151, 7217
- (J) The Board Accepted the following Donations from:
 - Feed the Children
 - Kessler Farms & Cutler Funeral Home
- (K) The Board approved the teacher evaluation instrument (RISE) modifications
- (L) The Board approved the Well Project Quote
- (M) The Board approved membership in the Northern Indiana Athletic Conference

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- (A) 1st Reading – Board Policy 5530.01 – Revision

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie Baltes stated that from the Instructional Presentations presented tonight, these presentations prove more to him than what the required standardized testing shows. Bernie wishes to invite the legislators to a Board meeting. Jim stated he will set it up for the June meeting.
- Al Williamson stated that he will miss Jim Holifield. He feels that Jim has big shoes to fill. He is also sad to be losing a great man, Harry Beebe.
- Rich Shail wishes to remind the members of the Top Ten Dinner being held Thursday, May1st at Heston Hills Banquet Hall. This is his favorite event of the year honoring New Prairie's highest ranking students.