

BOARD NOTES
September 26, 2016

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, September 26, 2016 with Rich Shail, Dale Groves, Phil King, William Romstadt and Dr. Paul White present.

Al Williamson and Phil King were absent.

Rich Shail, President, reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

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

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

Mark Stone, Agricultural Science Teacher and FFA Chapter Advisor at New Prairie High School, briefly updated the Board on the reinstatement of FFA at the high school. He introduced the President of New Prairie High School's FFA Chapter, Rachel Devereaux, and Vice President, Chelsea VanLue who addressed the Board on behalf of what FFA means to them and what they have been learning. The ladies explained some of the fundraising events FFA will be hosting. Mr. Stone stated that there are 15 students who will be attending the FFA Convention in October. He wants the students to learn more about FFA and see what the benefits are to being a part of FFA.

- Rich Shail commented that he is so glad to have FFA back at New Prairie.
- Dr. White asked what the short term accomplishments are.
- Mark Stone stated that building student interest is first.
- Rachel Devereaux also explained that she is compiling data on student interest.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items:

- (A) Minutes – September 12, 2016
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- **Leaves/Resignations/Retirements**
 1. Chrystal Willkeson – High School Language Arts Teacher - FMLA Leave beginning 9/12/16 through approximately 10/31/2016 and intermittent until 3/12/2017
 2. Greg Miller – High School World Language Teacher – FMLA Intermittent Family Leave for the period of 8/30/2016 to 11/20/2016
 3. Keith Hite – Resignation as Department Head of the CTE Department effective 7/1/2016
 4. Angela Allen – Resignation as NPMS 21st Century Teacher as of 8/23/2016
 5. Jennifer Draskovits – Resignation as NPHS PLTW Teacher as of 9/26/2016
- **Employment**
 1. Teresa Serry – NPMS 21st Century After School Program Teacher for 2016-17 school year at \$20 per hour

2. Kim Krauklis - NPMS 21st Century After School Program Teacher for 2016-17 school year at \$20 per hour
 3. Judy Reshan – PVES 21st Century After School Program Teacher for 2016-17 school year at \$20 per hour
 4. Chris Gesse - PVES 21st Century After School Program Teacher for 2016-17 school year at \$20 per hour
 5. Kim Stepp – Olive Elementary School 21st Century After School Program Teacher for 2016-17 school year at \$20 per hour
 6. Kristen Menke – NPHS 21st Century After School Program Teacher for 2016-17 school year at \$20 per hour
 7. Brandi Spoor - 21st Century After School Program Teacher for 2016-17 school year at \$20 per hour
 8. Chunhui Liu – NPMS/HS Permanent Substitute Mandarin Teacher beginning 9/19/2016 for the 2016-17 school year
- **Employment – Extra-Curricular**
 1. Derrick DeShone – NPMS After-School Athletic Supervisor beginning 7/1/2016
 2. Mark McBride – Olive Elementary After School Co-Athletic Supervisor beginning 7/1/2016
 3. Linda Behm - Olive Elementary After School Co-Athletic Supervisor beginning 7/1/2016
 4. Chris Gesse – Prairie View Elementary After School Athletic Supervisor beginning 7/1/2016
 - **Adjustments**

NON-CERTIFIED

- **Leaves/Resignations/Retirements**
 1. Debbie Vascil – Intermittent FMLA for the period of 9/6/2016 to 12/6/2016
 2. Caitlin Gumulauski – Resignation as Custodian at Rolling Prairie Elementary School as of 8/23/2016
 3. Danielle Miller - Resignation as NPMS 21st Century Teacher Assistant as of 8/11/2016
- **Employment**
 1. Zachary Borkowski – Floater Custodian beginning 9/12/2016 at \$10.50 per hour
 2. Michael Buell – New Prairie High School Midnight Custodian beginning 9/16/2016 at \$10.75 per hour
 3. Andrea Archuleta – RPES 21st Century After School Program Instructional Assistant for 2016-17 school year at \$10 per hour
 4. Lexi Vara - RPES 21st Century After School Program Instructional Assistant for 2016-17 school year at \$10 per hour
 5. Melissa Peterson-Plummer - RPES 21st Century After School Program Instructional Assistant for 2016-17 school year at \$10 per hour
 6. Sarah Prather - PVES 21st Century After School Program Instructional Assistant for 2016-17 school year at \$10 per hour
 7. Emma Hunt - PVES 21st Century After School Program Instructional Assistant for 2016-17 school year at \$10 per hour
 8. Michael Bertolan – Olive 21st Century After School Program Instructional Assistant for 2016-17 school year at \$10 per hour
 9. Chloe Funderburg – NPMS 21st Century After School Program Instructional Assistant for 2016-17 school year at \$10 per hour

10. Kelly Toppen – NPHS BioMed 21st Century After School Program Teacher for 2016-17 school year at a Stipend of \$3,000 split over 6 months
 11. Bob Huffman – Evaluator of Special Education Teachers. Stipend of \$1,500 plus mileage beginning 9/26/16
- **Employment – Extra-Curricular**
 1. Collin Kowalski – New Prairie High School Freshmen Head Boys Basketball Coach for the 2016-17 school year
 2. Alexandria Cooper – New Prairie High School Color Guard Coach for the 2016-17 school year
 3. Tyler Radtke – New Prairie High School Assistant Varsity Football Coach for the 2016-17 school year
 4. Giovanni Stanisci – New Prairie High School Assistant Varsity Football Coach for the 2016-17 school year
 5. Ross Strieter – New Prairie High School Boys Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach for the 2016-17 school year
 6. Rhonda Kujawa – Rolling Prairie Elementary After-School Athletic Supervisor for the 2016-17 school year
 - **Adjustments**

REPORTS

Superintendent's Reports:

- Dr. White thanked Carrie Cannon, all the principals and all involved for all their hard work putting the Flex Days together and making it work. There were many positives reported. Attendance was 96.4% the first day and slightly higher the second day. Teachers prep and engagement was phenomenal. In addition, the PD sessions were really impressive.
- Dr. White reported that testing results have been moved back to December.
- Dr. White stated that 5th grade athletics started last week at the elementary schools. Dan Reffo has done a great job setting up our elementary athletics.
- Dale Groves questioned if we know the Flex Days work completion rate.
- Dr. White stated that the elementary schools counts were higher than the secondary schools yet all counts were high and considered successful.
- Rich Shail asked if the 4% not reported could be because of no internet. Carrie Cannon stated that yes it could be. Rich said he has heard nothing but positives.
- Carrie Cannon reported that state approved NPUSC utilizing 2 virtual learning days if needed for snow days.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted Donations
- Prairie View Elementary received donations of:
 1. Backpacks full of school supplies and several ear buds from New Carlisle Methodist Church
 2. Backpacks full of school supplies from Maple Grove Church
 3. Several bags full of school supplies, Kleenex, Ziploc bags and sweatpants from Delta Theta Tau Sorority
 4. 6 backpacks full of school supplies each with a \$30.00 WalMart gift card earmarked for shoes from Rolling Prairie AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary
 - Olive Elementary received donations of:

- 1 a box of sweat pants, and underwear from. New Carlisle Methodist Church
- NPUSC received a generous donation of school supplies for all NPUSC schools in need from the Employees of the Indiana Toll Road Administration Buildings between the Illinois and Ohio state lines
- (B) The Board approved the 2017 Budget and Resolution of Appropriations and Tax Rates
- (C) The Board approved the Overnight Field Trip Request:
 - NPHS Spell Bowl Team to Purdue University West Lafayette for the Indiana State Spell Bowl Competition on November 11 & 12, 2016
- (D) The Board approved Snow Removal Proposals for the 2016/2017 School Year:
 - Caretaker Landscaping and Lawn – New Prairie High School, Middle School, Olive and Prairie View Elementary Schools
 - MC Homestead Construction – Rolling Prairie Elementary School
- (E) The Board adopted the 2017-2019 Capital Projects Fund Plan and Resolution
- (F) The Board adopted the 2017-2029 Bus Replacement Plan and Resolution
- (G) The Board approved the Resolution to Line 2 Budget Cuts and Transfers for Budget Year 2016

DISCUSSION

- (A) Elementary Recess
 - Dale Groves opened the discussion with referencing the researched information on recess he previously sent to all the Board members stating that he wants to see the extra recess added to the Handbook that was removed and previously approved. He asked that the Superintendent rewrite only that section of the handbook stating that a mandatory 10-15 minute unstructured recess be added for all elementary students. Dale feels that recess is more critical today than it has ever been. Dale also stated that it should never be used as a punishment.
 - Dr. White stated students grades 3-5 currently have a 20 minute recess time daily. He feels writing time is valuable for development. The reduced time is used for writing development and remediation. Dr. White would like to find out if reinstating the mandatory recess time can still allow for writing and remediation time within the schedule then he could agree but recommends the handbook remain stated as it is.
 - Carrie Cannon clarified that the changes in the handbook stated that the 2nd recess is optional. There are still teachers taking a second recess when they feel their students require it. Also, students have gym time, EE time and other options for a bit of a break. A balanced approach has been taken with the schedule. Because of servicing students in need, sometimes they are pulled from Core learning. Time is extremely tight during the day. The time that is no longer being used for recess is valuable, however, if teachers find they need to use recess time they do.

- Tara Bush, Principal at Olive Elementary, spoke about Olive's modifications to the daily schedule to compensate for 2nd recess. The 3rd and 4th grade have a work/break, work/break schedule. A 5 -10 minute mandatory brain break is scheduled every afternoon for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade. An RTI block is 30 minutes where the pull-out servicing of students and enrichment activities happen.
- Rhonda Myers, Principal at Prairie View Elementary, explained that they also have a work/break plan along with brain breaks. They also have teachers who utilized the second recess when they need it.
- Dale Groves asked if he correctly understands that nothing has really changed. Kids are getting the same amount of time of unstructured fun? The principals agreed.
- Rhonda stated that "No, the writing instruction and some of the Title I special instruction cannot happen with the mandatory recess time". Parents and students have not complained at all.
- Dale Groves feels better knowing that if a teacher feels the need to go outside for a recess they can do it.
- Tara Bush stated that the teachers are thrilled knowing that if the students are working and don't need to take the recess break they do not have to.
- Bill Romstadt stated that his time working as a teacher he understands when the students need a break, he gave them that break so learning can continue to happen.
- Rich Shail understands that the administration does not want to change this and understands why.
- Dale suggested changing the wording in the policy.
- Bill said that the optional recess is a tool in the teachers' toolbox to use when needed and agrees.
- Dale feels that as the policy is written it sounds more rigid and needs the wording restated. His ultimate concern is that students will be in their seats without the time to unwind.
- Dr. White asked about how often grades 2, 3, 4, & 5, utilize a 2nd unstructured recess a week.
- Tara Bush stated at least once a week at Olive. They also have time outside for nature walks and other types of exercise.
- Bill suggested wording the policy to reflect the actions that are happening within the schools.
- Dr. White asked the Board if for the October Board meeting the elementary handbook is brought back with a sentence to reflect what is going on within the schools.
- Rich agreed and will speak with the absent Board members to get their input.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Dale Groves thanked Dr. White for his lengthy comments on the Apple PD he attended. It was full of very good information. Thank you for taking the time to send it to the Board members.

On a motion by Dale Groves the meeting was adjourned.