

BOARD NOTES

January 24, 2012

The School Board of Finance meeting was held on Monday, January 23, 2012 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Dale Groves present. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda for the Board of Finance meeting as presented.

- Bernie Baltes nominated Rich Shail as President of the Board of Finance. Mr. Baltes moved to close nominations. Rich Shail was elected President of the Board of Finance.
- Dale Groves nominated LuAnn Schwingendorf as Secretary of the Board of Finance. Mr. Baltes moved to close nominations. LuAnn Schwingendorf was elected Secretary of the Board of Finance.
- The Board approved the Interest Report for calendar year 2011.

On a motion by Baltes, the Board of Finance meeting was adjourned.

The Regular meeting of the School Board was held following the Board of Finance meeting. All Board members were present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Mark Norton made a presentation on the School Messenger Contact Manager. The Contact Manager will allow parents and staff to manage their own information that they wish to receive from the corporation. They can view individual building and student information relating to such issues as cancellations, meetings and other activities within the building. Mark would like to initiate this program within the next 30 days.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- Minutes – December 19, 2011 and January 3, 2012
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Judy Machota – 1st Grade Teacher – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
 2. Matt Flagg – Math Teacher – NPMS – Leave of Absence beginning January 13, 2012 for approximately 4-6 weeks.
- Employment
 1. Lauren Smith – Full-time Title I Teacher – Prairie View – Beginning January 4, 2012.
 2. Amy Henderlong – Chemistry Teacher – NPHS – Beginning January 4, 2012
 3. Margaret Buss – Temporary Earth Science Teacher – NPHS – Beginning January 4, 2012 through the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
 4. Elcona Goodlink – Temporary Math Teacher – NPHS – Beginning January 4, 2012 through February 24, 2012.
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Ron McVay – Assistant 6th Grade Girls Basketball
 2. Barb Papai – Co-Math Bowl Sponsor – Olive Elementary
 3. Janet Pfeil – Co-Math Bowl Sponsor – Olive Elementary

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement

1. Suzi Unger – Health Assistant – Olive Elementary School – Effective December 21, 2011 or until replacement is hired.
 2. Lanette Ness – Library Assistant – NPMS – Leave of Absence beginning January 5, 2012 through approximately January 16, 2012.
 3. Cassandra Koselke – Food Service – Middle School – Leave of absence beginning January 5, 2012 through January 20, 2012.
 4. Tom Dudeck – Bus Mechanic – Leave of Absence beginning January 10, 2012 through March 2, 2012.
- Employment
 1. Kathleen Csenar – Health Assistant – Olive Elementary School – Effective immediately pending Criminal Background Report.
 2. Elizabeth Reynolds – Teacher Assistant – Prairie View Elementary School – Effective immediately pending Criminal Background Report.
 - Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Kevin Macias – Co-Assistant Wrestling Coach – NPMS
 2. Chris Sammetinger – Co-Assistant Wrestling Coach – NPMS
 3. Kaylor Keck – JV Softball Coach

Mr. Dermody wanted to recognize Judy Machota who will be retiring at the end of the 2011-2012 school year after 40 years of teaching in the New Prairie Schools – all at Rolling Prairie Elementary School. Mrs. Machota also served as President of the New Prairie Classroom Teachers Association, Gifted and Talented Building Coordinator, PL221 Coordinator and History Fair Coordinator. Mr. Dermody said Mrs. Machota's departure will constitute a significant loss to the corporation, but we wish her a happy retirement.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Ruth Trujillo, Counselor at New Prairie Middle School, discussed the Lead and Seed Program she instituted at the Middle School. This is a leadership training program which targets middle school students who are influential with their peers. Twenty students will be chosen to attend this two-day training. Mrs. Trujillo received a \$9,000 grant to help support this program. Mrs. Trujillo hopes to continue receiving grants to fund this program. Rich Shail would like to see the results of this program.

- Mr. Dermody said we have been receiving many positive comments on the new Cougar Gym lights. He wanted to thank the Board, Keith Dennis, Greg Dudeck and Lou Lucas for their efforts.
- The Geography Bee was held on January 11th at the NPMS with over 50 contestants participating. Molly McFadden and Lexi Benhart finished first and runner-up.
- ISTEP+ and IREAD tests are coming up in the near future. A meeting will be held on January 30th at 6:00 p.m. in the Cougar Den for parents/guardians of 3rd grade students to discuss the upcoming IREAD testing process.
- Mr. Dermody strives to showcase the Culture of Excellence expectations for the New Prairie United School Corporation. On January 13th, school was canceled due to heavy snow. This was the date the IDOE targeted for the ISTEP Online Stress Test. Mark Norton had a plan together in advance and recruited tech people, Central Office personnel, and custodians. Several principals and teachers came in to volunteer as well. The test goals were met. Sherry Bailey also stayed to hold the Blood Drive at Olive. Those efforts will save 90 lives. This is a great testimony to the dedication of our employees.
- The Feed the Children organization donates free supplies and books to school corporations. Out of 26 participating corporations, New Prairie lead the way during their recent volunteer program. There was a heavy concentration of volunteers from Olive.
- Every four years the Food Service Department goes through a review process. New Prairie received 100% for their performance. Tammy Watkins and the Food Service personnel should be commended for their efforts.
- The School Board supported the purchase of the Promethean Boards. Promethean Planet is a resource for teachers to utilize. Kelly Jarka of Rolling Prairie Elementary School developed a program which was chosen from a host of national submissions as an “Editor’s Pick”. Kelly’s lesson regarding political cartoons was displayed on the Promethean Planet homepage. The NPUSC is proud of Kelly’s efforts.
- We are preparing for the 2012-2013 Kindergarten Round-up process to begin in March.
- National Digital Learning Day is scheduled for February 1st. All five schools will be carrying out activities which promote the use of instructional technology.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the Conflict of Interest Disclosure for Bill Rose of C.J.’s Outdoor Services.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- The following Board policies were introduced for first reading: 0142.3, 0167, 2260, 2260.01, 3122, 3217, 4122, 4217, 5111, 5111.01, 5111.02, 5463, 5630.01, 5772, 6150, 7217, 8450, 9160, and 9270. The Board recommended that the language in Board Policy #5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students – Page 4, remain as originally stated: “The Superintendent **may** grant or deny any and all transfer requests in accordance with the criteria herein and the established administrative guidelines.” The new language would have required the Board to grant or deny all requests.
- Rich Shail would also like Bill Kaminski to obtain clarification on the process for School Board filings. In the past, the candidate filed at the County Clerk’s Office of their perspective district and the Clerk’s office cross-filed for the candidate. That did not occur at the last election. Bill Kaminski will obtain clarification on this process.
- Bernie feels some of the language about the transfer students is outdated because the money now follows the student. Bernie would like to consider some type of monetary value assessed to those transfer students for facility usage. We currently only receive General Fund money from the state for those students.
- Bernie raised a question regarding Special Meeting and Work Session voting processes. Bill Kaminski will provide clarification on these issues.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie attended a legislative session and one of the General Session speakers said “Democracy is not a spectator sport. It should be an active participation at the grassroots level. Special interest groups are controlling our democracy.”
- Bernie said there is a bill proposed to put a referendum on the ballot to change the format on class sports. In that bill is a proposal to mandate the start of school after Labor Day. Mr. Dermody spoke with two local legislators and they are not in agreement with that bill. They feel, as the Superintendent and the Board, that it should be handled at the local level.