

BOARD NOTES

March 27, 2012

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, March 26, 2012 with all Board members present. Mr. Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as submitted.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Rolling Prairie was one of 50 schools in the United States to receive a \$100,000 reward from Target, Inc. Mrs. Hambling introduced Mrs. Tammy Doucette, whose “act of kindness”, was instrumental in Rolling Prairie receiving this award. Mrs. Doucette was inspired by the Activity Center and entered a contest through Target. This award will be used to purchase technology, enhance the Activity Center and offer additional remediation and tutoring to students at Rolling Prairie Elementary School.
- Stephanie Brown, a senior at New Prairie High School and a member of the FBLA New Prairie Chapter, was selected to represent the nation in Washington, D.C. in February as part of the Career Technical Education Month.
- The Board recognized the State Gold Medal winners of the ISSMA District Solo & Ensemble competition. The Board also recognized the four students who were selected to the All Star Band.
- Bob Wideman of the Rolling Prairie Lion’s Club wanted to thank the School Board, Superintendent and educators of the New Prairie United School Corporation for their involvement in the Lion’s Club annual food drive. Students at the Middle School, Prairie View and Rolling Prairie helped collect over 6,000 lbs. of food. At the Middle School, half of their collection is shared with New Carlisle. This effort helped service 63 families in the community. The remaining food was sent to community pantries at the Rolling Prairie Methodist Church and Lamb’s Chapel.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – February 27, 2012
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Brenda Moffitt – 5th Grade Teacher – Olive Elementary – Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year
 2. Kathy Nova – ½-time P.E. – NPHS – Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year
 3. Becky Higgins – Art Teacher – NPHS – Leave of Absence beginning April 23, 2012 through the end of the 2011-2012 school year
- Employment
 1. Tim Eldridge – Homebound Instructor for NPMS student effective immediately and continuing through May 24, 2012
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Troy Campbell – Head Volleyball Coach – NPHS – Effective with the 2012-2013 school year pending criminal background report.

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Cheryl Cox – Teacher Assistant – Olive Elementary School – Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year
 2. Shirley Kirkham – Food Service – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Retirement effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year

3. Gloria Wiesemann – ESL Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Leave of Absence beginning March 30, 2012 and continuing through the end of the 2011-2012 school year

- Employment

1. Rebecca Williamson – Temporary ESL Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – beginning March 30, 2012 and continuing through the end of the 2011-2012 school year

Mr. Dermody recognized the following individuals who will be retiring:

- Cheryl Cox, Remediation Assistant at Olive Elementary School since 2006.
- Shirley Kirkham, Cook at Rolling Prairie since 2008.
- Kathy Nova – P.E. teacher at NPHS since 1976. Kathy served as swim coach since 1978, as well as serving as Letter Club Sponsor, Girls Track, Class Sponsor and Lifesaving.
- Brenda Moffitt – Teacher at Olive Elementary since 1972 in grades 4, 5 and 6. Brenda also served as History Fair and Student Council Sponsor and Gifted/Talented Writing Club.

Mr. Dermody stated that the retirement of these individuals will be a loss to the New Prairie United School Corporation.

Mr. Dermody also announced that Troy Campbell has been hired as the Head Volleyball Coach. Troy has coached teams to six state championship titles. He is not only an outstanding coach, but he is supportive of the entire athletic program. Mr. Campbell said he wants to be part of the team atmosphere and is looking forward to being here.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody recognized the students who qualified for the Regional Spell Bowl:
 - 3/4th Grade – Allison Hein - Olive Elementary
 - 5/6th Grade
 - Devon Kautz – 5th Grade Olive Elementary
 - Ashleigh Suppinger – 6th Grade – Middle School
 - Jordyn Bloode – 6th Grade – Middle School

- NPMS held a dance on March 23rd with profits going to West Clark Schools as part of the Tornado Relief efforts. Corporation staff also received information informing them how donations could be submitted.
- Prairie View Elementary participated in the Pennies for Patients in support of a 4th grade student who is a Leukemia survivor. Prairie View raised over \$2,000.
- The Robotics Team traveled to the Boilermaker Regional competition. The team was chosen to be part of the third-seeded alliance for the elimination tournament and won both their quarter and semi-final series of matches to advance to the finals. Frank Hobart and Holly Hauck are sponsors.
- In an effort to support our Mentor Program, Sam Lubeznik held a fundraiser at McDonald's and donated \$400. McFalls Café in Fish Lake donated \$50 and Cops 4 Kids donated \$250 for T-Shirts.
- ISTEP, IREAD and Acuity have been completed and now our identified students will be preparing for on-line ISTEP. Results will now be based on the A-F Growth Model.
- We will be working on enrollment and staffing for 2013.
- "The Murder Room" was presented by the New Prairie Players lead by Courtney Barnes. The entire cast and support personnel deserve credit for an excellent production.
- Paula Nichols prepared a video that was viewed by the Board on Disability Awareness Month.
- When we prepare for bus bids, we will be recommending the purchase of two 15-passenger activity buses that coaches and sponsors can drive. There have been 93 bus trips that had 14 or less students traveling this year. This will be a cost savings to the corporation. Sponsors will not be required to hold a CDL license, but will participate in a training program prior to driving the vehicle.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the second reading and adoption of Board Policies – Volume 23, No. 2 - #0100, 0160, 1411, 1613, 1615, 2370, 2460, 3211, 3213, 3215, 4211, 4213, 4215, 5120, 5320, 5512, 6460, 6550, 7434, 7540.03, 7540.04, 7540, 8600, 9150 and 9160 as presented.

- The Board approved the proposed improvements to the Rolling Prairie diamonds and facilities as submitted by the Rolling Prairie Baseball Association.
- The Board approved the Summer School Program for 2012 as follows:
 - Instrumental Ensemble – NPHS
 - Exploring Music – NPMS at the cost of \$30 per student
 - PLATO Program – NPHS/MS at the cost of \$30 per student
 - Grade 3 Reading at a cost to be determined.

Dale Groves expressed personal concern, as well as receiving concerns from parents of third grade students, regarding the IREAD testing and possible retention based on the test results. He suggests parents contact their legislators and express their concerns. As a teacher, he looks at over 40 items of criteria before making a retention recommendation. The Legislature is asking the corporation to retain students based on two test performances. The other Board members agree with Dale. Bernie said that he is concerned that our staff is being forced to teach to the test. Mr. Dermody said we work hard with our teaching staff to instruct from a broad-based curriculum.

- After reviewing a website demonstration, the Board approved the contract with One Technologies, Inc. to host, support, and update the New Prairie United School Corporation website at the cost of \$7,274. The cost of the service will be reduced by approximately 55% for each succeeding year. We will also qualify for E-Rate services which will also reduce the yearly cost. Al Williamson expressed some concern with the comments blog that would be available. Mark Norton indicated that piece could be eliminated. Mr. Dermody stated that the Board will receive a trial review once the site is ready for launch. The Board was very impressed with the possible website.

DISCUSSION

- The following policies were introduced for first reading: Board Policies – Volume 24, No. 1 - #0142, 0142.3, 0144.3, 0144.4, 0167.5, 1422.02, 1460, 1461, 1520, 1521, 1530, 1623, 2260.01, 3121, 3122.02, 3123, 3124, 3160, 3161, 4121, 4122.02, 4123, 4160, 4161, 4220, 5200, 8121, and 9160.

Bernie had a question on Policy #0144.3 – Page 17 regarding the limit on the Conflict of Interest. Bill Kaminski believes that filing a form is better than not doing so when dealing with the filing of Conflicts of Interest. He will review this policy with NEOLA and report to the Board.

Bernie also had a question on Policy #3160 – Page 2 – paying for an exam. Mr. Dermody said this relates to a situation when the corporation requests additional “fitness for duty” information.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie said we recognized a number of individuals for circumstances other than their passing a test which indicates how much we strive to promote the importance in the whole development of a student.
- Bernie would like Mr. Dermody to invite the two local legislators to a Board meeting to review the latest legislative issues on education. Keith Dennis advised that Dennis Costerison of the ISBA will be here to present at the IASBO workshop on April 26th, and feels the Board might enjoy hearing him speak as well.