

## BOARD NOTES

October 22, 2012

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, October 22, 2012 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Dale Groves present. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The agenda was amended to add Item "e" to Action Item "H" to include the overnight field trip request for the Spell Bowl to attend competition in Lafayette on November 9-10, 2012. The Board adopted the agenda as amended.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION**

- Olive Elementary School – Instructional Coaches

Sherry Bailey introduced Rachel Ralston, Laura Palman and Leifschon Walker as Instructional Coaches at Olive Elementary School. The Olive staff has embedded professional development and instructional coaches to work together. The goal of the Literacy Coaches and the Math Coaches is to improve instruction by supporting teachers. In the area of Math, teachers felt the need to address the Math ISTEP scores which had become stagnant. Their objective is to develop and communicate a cohesive academic plan with regard to the Common Core standards and allow all elementary schools to work together in a collaborated effort.

- Mr. Dermody and the School Board recognized Jim Groendyke who was named 2012 IASP Academic Coach of the Year. Mr. Groendyke has served as Senior Spell Bowl Coach for 8 years and Junior Spell Bowl Coach for one year. The Senior Spell Bowl Team has won the State Championship two times. Mr. Groendyke was nominated by Jenn Smith, teacher at New Prairie Middle School. Mr. Groendyke said his true honor is working with the students.
- Mr. Dermody recognized the Literacy Coaches who recently made a presentation in Michigan City.

The regular Board meeting was suspended to hold a Public Hearing to amend the lease of the 2006 Bonds and the resolution authorizing the execution. The floor was opened to the public for comment. There were no comments from the public. The regular meeting resumed at 6:39 p.m.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- Minutes – September 10, 2012
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

### **CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
  1. Sandra Murray – Spanish Teacher – NPHS – Leave of Absence beginning October 9, 2012 and continuing for approximately six weeks.
  2. Linda Krick – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher – Olive Elementary School – Retirement effective January 7, 2013
  3. Janet Pfeil – Math Bowl Coach – Olive Elementary School – Resignation effective September 28, 2012.
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
  1. Linda Behm – Math Bowl Coach – Olive Elementary School – Effective immediately.

### **NON-CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
  1. Ed Maurushes – Custodian – Prairie View Elementary – Request for Leave of Absence beginning August 29, 2012 for an indeterminate amount of time.
  2. Kristin Jasinski – Bus Driver – Leave of Absence beginning October 11, 2012 and continuing through approximately November 21, 2012.
  3. Charles Webster – Instructional Assistant – Prairie View Elementary School – Resignation effective September 21, 2012.
  4. Pat Skaggs – Instructional Assistant – Olive Elementary School – Resignation effective September 26, 2012.

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
  1. Donald Stoner – Assistant Wrestling – NPHS
  2. John Haggard – 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Boys Basketball
  3. Ben Anderson – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball
  4. Katelyn Grabarek – Head Boys Tennis – 2012-2013 School Year
  5. Tara Blair – Head Softball Coach – NPHS
  6. John Arndt – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Boys Track
  7. Joe Mitchell – Assistant Boys Swimming – NPHS
  8. Nika Corwin – JV Girls Basketball Coach
  9. Josh Klein – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball
  10. Kristen Freitag – Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball

Mr. Dermody recognized Linda Krick who will be retiring at the end of the first semester. Mrs. Krick has been a Kindergarten and First Grade teacher at Olive Elementary School since 1987. Linda will be missed by all.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- The New Prairie High School received the Channel 16 Spirit Award for the Jimtown football game.
- Girls Golf, Boys/Girls Cross Country and the Volleyball teams have all won conference this fall. Nick Arndt and Rachel Thompson qualified for the state cross country meet.
- Mr. Dermody wanted to recognize George DeMeyer who recently passed away. George served as a School Board member from 1994-1998.
- Red Ribbon Week will be observed throughout the New Prairie United School Corporation during the week of October 22-26.
- Mr. Dermody will be hosting a Superintendent's Night Out/State of the New Prairie Schools on November 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. (CST) in the LGI room at New Prairie Middle School. The community is invited to attend to participate in a forum related to issues that impact the NPUSC.
- Mr. Dermody announced that based on the final ME Report, the New Prairie United School Corporation has realized an increase of 18.5 students (Kindergarten counting as half).
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were held last week. We will be preparing totals of this event to share with the Board in the near future.
- Prairie View Elementary School experienced a disruption in their water on Monday morning. Mr. Dermody wanted to extend appreciation to Greg Dudeck, Kevin Smith, Rodney Hughes, Rhonda Myers, Andy Bashaw, Bernie Baltus, and other community members for their efforts in sustaining the facility during this outage.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- The Board approved the following action items referring to the Refinancing of the 2006 Bond. Curt Pletcher explained that with the current interest rates, the NPUSC could experience interest savings of about \$500,000. However, by delaying the process, we may experience a larger amount because escrow is earning about .4%. If you chose to refinance now, the corporation would have to issue more bonds to fund the escrow. By waiting until February, we could increase the savings to \$600,000. By waiting one year – August/September, we could realize about \$900,000 - \$950,000. With all the paperwork in order, if we see interest rates increasing, we can move forward quickly to refinance.
  - Approved the petition of school patrons to amend the lease of the school facilities.
  - Approved the resolution re-approving the existence of the New Prairie United School Building Corporation.
  - Approved the resolution authorizing the execution of the continuing disclosure undertaking.
  - Approved the resolution authorizing the time schedule for the refunding of the 2006 bonds.
  - Approved the resolution authorizing the time schedule for the refunding of the pension bonds.
- The Board approved the advertisement of the Request for Proposal to select a single qualified provider for the implementation of an energy savings contract.
- The Board approved the contract with Aramark Uniform Services for the Cafeteria.
- The Board approved the following overnight field trip requests:
  - FBLA – State Leadership Conference – Indianapolis – October 8-9, 2012
  - FBLA – National Fall Leadership Conference – Indianapolis – November 2-4, 2012
  - FBLA – State Leadership Conference – Indianapolis – March 15-17, 2013
  - NPHS Wrestling Team – Tournament – Lafayette – December 28-29, 2012
  - NPHS Spell Bowl State Competition – Lafayette – November 9-10, 2012
- The Board approved the following evaluation instruments:
  - Principals
  - Director of Curriculum/Evaluation
  - Counselors
  - Librarian/Media Specialist
  - Technology & Instructional Mentors
  - Athletic Director

- The Board approved the 2012-2013 School Improvement Plans for the following:
  - New Prairie High School
  - New Prairie Middle School
  - Olive Elementary School
  - Prairie View Elementary School
  - Rolling Prairie Elementary School

The Board appreciates all the hard work the staff and administration have put forward to complete this process. Bernie said he relies on the expertise of the certified staff when approving these plans.

- The Board approved the Snow Removal Quotes for a three-year period as follows:
  - C.J.'s Outdoor Services – NPHS/NPMS
  - Outdoor Enterprises – Prairie View/Olive
  - M.C. Homestead – Rolling Prairie
- The Board approved the contract with Cattail Design for the remodeling of the Activity Center. There will be minimal costs involved based on donated labor and materials. The addition will provide the ability to house approximately 130 students. We anticipate occupancy around December.

## **DISCUSSION**

- The following Board policies were introduced for first reading: Volume 24 – No. 2 #2623, 2623.01, 5120, 5130, 5340.01, 5410, 5464, 6520, 7540.03, 7540.04, 8310, 8330, 8405, 8431, 8615, and 8750.
- Pat Cummings and several members of the New Carlisle Town Council would like to propose the construction of a parking lot at the end of Meridian St. just north of Bourissa Hills Park in New Carlisle. The Town Council is requesting the NPUSC donate a strip of land approximately 45 ft. x 150 ft. to accomplish this project. The parking lot would benefit the NPUSC, the Little League and Youth Football leagues as well. It was the consensus of the Board that they would like to proceed with the legal process to donate the property to the Town of New Carlisle.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Bernie Baltes reviewed highlights of the recent ISBA Conference he and Mr. Dermody attended.
- The Board wanted to compliment everyone for their hard work on the School Improvement Plans. They also wanted to thank Kregg VanMeter for his efforts in obtaining donations and grants for the Activity Center.
- Dale Groves wanted to compliment everyone on a great finish to the first nine weeks. He also attended the Parent/Teacher Conference and is glad that we were able to continue with the conferences.

- Al Williamson asked if we have looked at the option of lap tops for all students. Mr. Dermody said we have applied for a grant that would allow us to study this initiative. We should know by October 31<sup>st</sup> if we were successful in obtaining the grant.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2012.