

BOARD NOTES

June 24, 2013

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, June 24, 2013 with all Board members present. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as amended to include the resignation of Matt Presley, Language Arts teacher at NPHS.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Senator Jim Arnold and State Representative Tom Dermody presented an update on recent legislative issues.

Senator Arnold indicated that there were over 1,200 bills proposed from both Houses with about 295 passing. Senator Arnold felt there were good working relationships with all groups with great strides made with the budget. Education did not receive what was needed; but he is hopeful additional items can be addressed in the next session. Senator Arnold appreciates the contact from the Superintendent to keep him apprised of educational issues. Senator Arnold supported the energy bill because he believes it is a job creator.

Representative Dermody indicated this was a budget session. There was no funding previously, but with funding now available, the session went well. Rep. Dermody did not support the bill that would not require a Superintendent to hold a license. Rep. Dermody also did not support the mandate that all transfer students must be admitted into a corporation. He believes the local corporations should make that decision and not the State. Rep. Dermody also supported the LaPorte County tax issue solution. With this year's budget, 51% funding will go to K-12 education. He did not support Charter education funding. In 2015, approximately \$16 million dollars will be distributed to those schools that perform well. Rep. Dermody is concerned with the low graduation percentage rate among colleges in Indiana which he is trying to address.

Bernie said when Superintendent Dermody contacts the legislators; he has always discussed those conversations with the Board to get their input. Bernie is concerned with the total emphasis on ISTEP testing relating to teacher evaluations and student achievement. He feels we are missing the point of student development and learning. Senator Arnold said he continually hears educators' concerns that we are teaching to the test. Rep. Dermody said we

need to get back to critical thinking. Bernie was disappointed in the forgiveness of the debt to Charter Schools.

Dale Groves also expressed concern with the amount of required testing for students and would appreciate any support in this area.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – May 20, 2013
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Chad Cripe – Social Studies Teacher – NPHS – Resignation effective May 24, 2013.
 2. Mike Babcock – Social Studies Teacher – NPHS – Resignation effective June 30, 2013.
 3. JoAnn Gappa – Grade 2 Teacher - Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Resignation effective June 20, 2013.
 4. Matt Presley – Language Arts Teacher – NPHS – Resignation effective June 24, 2013.
- Resignations – Extra-Curricular
 1. Cheryl Karczewski – Science Fair Sponsor – Rolling Prairie Elementary School
- Employment/Transfers
 1. Ryan Jones – Art Teacher – NPHS – Effective immediately, beginning August 12, 2013.
 2. Lori Kienitz – Vocal Music Teacher – Transfer from Rolling Prairie/Olive Elementary School to New Prairie Middle School beginning August 12, 2013.

3. Jessica Sinka – Language Arts Teacher – NPHS – Beginning August 12, 2013.
 4. Kristen Menke – Language Arts Teacher – NPHS – Beginning August 12, 2013.
 5. Kortney Brennan – Language Arts/Speech & Drama Teacher – NPHS – Beginning August 12, 2013.
 6. Jemiah Feece – Prairie View – Transfer from Grade 1 to Grade 4 beginning August 12, 2013
 7. Melissa Kobitz – Prairie View – Transfer from Grade 2 to Grade 1 beginning August 12, 2013
 8. Kristina DeMeyer – Rolling Prairie – Transfer from Grade 1 to Grade 2 beginning August 12, 2013
 9. Melanie Cloonan – Rolling Prairie – Transfer from Title 1 to Grade 2 beginning August 12, 2013
 10. Jane Parker – Rolling Prairie – Transfer from Grade 4 to Title 1 beginning August 12, 2013
 11. Erica Ketterer – Grade 2 – Prairie View Elementary School – beginning August 12, 2013
 12. Sandra Murray – NPHS – Transfer from Spanish Teacher to Social Studies Teacher beginning August 12, 2013.
- Wage and Benefit Adjustment
 1. Alex Brandon – Reinstate as Assistant Principal – NPHS with wage and benefit adjustment.
 2. Becky Bartlett – Summer School Principal which includes stipend.

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Joyce Pickett – Cafeteria Manager – Olive Elementary – Retirement effective June 5, 2013
 2. Sharon Strieter – Bus Driver – Retirement effective June 1, 2013.

3. Heather Adams – Food Service – NPHS – Resignation effective May 23, 2013.
 4. Joann Evans - Administrative Assistant – Retirement effective December 20, 2013.
 5. Jennifer Osianowski – Prairie View – Reduction – Receptionist at Prairie View was reduced to include Library responsibilities. Ms. Osianowski will not be returning to this reduced position.
- Employment/Transfers
 1. Lynn Hill – Cafeteria Manager – Transfer from Prairie View Cafeteria Manager to Olive Elementary Cafeteria Manager.
 2. Paige Thompson – Instructional Assistant – Activity Center - \$10 per hour.
 - Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Kelly Losinski – Assistant Volleyball Coach – NPHS – 2013-2014 school year
 2. John Arndt – Head Boys Cross Country Coach – NPHS – 2013-2014 school year

Mr. Dermody recognized Joyce Pickett upon her retirement. Joyce has worked with the NPUSC since 1979 as food helper, cook and Manager at Olive Elementary since 1993.

Mr. Dermody and the Board also recognized Joann Evans who also started with the NPUSC since 1979 serving as Administrative Assistant with six superintendents and many Board members.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Mr. Dermody recognized Dan Shead for completing the “Wall of Fame” at NPHS.
- Kim Holifield served as a paid volunteer with Intel International Science Fair where she was recognized for her efforts.
- NPHS Boys and Girls won Conference Championships with the Girls tying for first and Boys winning outright.
- Tiffany Galus was named a Grammy Foundation Music Educator Award quarterfinalist out of 30,000 nominees.
- The Blue/Gold Golf Outing was a success. Mr. Dermody recognized Brian Williamson for his coordination of the event.
- Natalie Krause, who served as Boys Track Coach, was nominated as Inspiring Coach of the Year through Brooks Running Shoes.
- The staffing process continues for the secondary and elementary schools.
- The Board/Administrative Retreat is scheduled for July 29th.

- Mr. Dermody wanted to recognize the elementary teachers – 3rd grade in particular, along with principals and teacher assistants for their efforts in the IREAD3 program. New Prairie had six students attending Summer IREAD and four of those six students have passed the test. Of the 212 students taking the test, 210 students passed.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board accepted Donations as follows:
 - Feed the Children – Value of \$2,173.66
 - Michigan City Public Library – Over 200 books for Rolling Prairie Elementary School
 - Girl Scout Troup #30270 – Trash Can valued at \$421.38 for Rolling Prairie playground
 - Dr. Greg Andrews – Medical books for NPHS/MS library, counselors and science teachers
- The Board approved the contract with Heartland School Solutions for an on-line payment of textbook fees. The administration also recommends that the NPUSC adopt the all-inclusive program where all our processing fees, set by Heartland and Indiana Statute, are paid by the parent/guardian and not the school corporation. This program is the same program utilized by the cafeteria.
- The Board approved the cafeteria bids for 2013-2014 as recommended by Tammy Watkins, Food Service Director. Mr Dermody recognized Tammy for her work in carrying out the process with details based on product and best price.
- The Board approved the contract with the American Councils for International Education for one Chinese teacher for the 2013-2014 school year. New Prairie will now have two in-depth instructors in Mandarin and a student teacher for K-12. The greater concentration will be at the secondary level. Jim Holifield deserves much credit for this project. Rich said he receives so much positive comments in the community about this program.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Board Policies – Volume 25, No. 1 - #0150, 0160, 1422, 2260, 2340, 3122, 4122, 4162, 5136, 5463, 5530, 5630, 7434, 7440, 7440.01 and 7530.02 were introduced for first reading.
- Board Policy #8510 – Wellness Policy – was introduced for first reading. Mr. Dermody credited all committee members for their efforts.
- The Acceptable Use Policy for the student technology initiative was introduced for first reading. Mr. Dermody indicated that this policy will be very fluid, and will be periodically updated as situations arise. Dale feels this policy is a great start.

Carrie Cannon combined 4-5 different corporation policies to create this document for the NPUSC.

Rich Shail asked the Board to review the policies and list any comments or concerns prior to the second reading.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie would like to commend the grounds crew for their work in preparation of graduation. Bernie also commended the faculty members attending the graduation.
- Bernie supports Senator Joe Donnelly's Bill #701 regarding the determination of a 40-hour work week. Mr. Dermody will send a letter of support on behalf of the School Board.
- Dale Groves felt it was an honor handing out diplomas and shaking the hands of each graduate. He wishes them all the best.
- Rich Shail has received many positive comments on the iPad initiative.