

## BOARD NOTES

September 10, 2012

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, September 10, 2012 with Rich Shail, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Dale Groves present. Al Williamson was absent. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION**

- Mr. Dermody announced that New Prairie Middle School has been named the 2012 Youth Coalition of the Year for LaPorte County. In addition, Yessica Jiminez, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at NPHS, has been named the 2012 Prevention Youth Leader of the Year for LaPorte County. The Board recognized Yessica along with Ruth Trujillo, who has been instrumental in the Drug Prevention Program at the Middle School.
- The Board recognized Sharon Strieter and Brenda Gorny with certificates for their efforts during the recent bus accident on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Dermody also recognized the efforts of Rhonda Smoroske, Jen Thompson, Angie Curless, Bruce Lasley, Tom Dudeck, Bob DeMeyer, Rhonda Myers and Becky Bartlett for their assistance as well.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
  - Minutes – August 13, 2012
  - Financial Reports
  - Claims
  - Payroll
  - Personnel as follows:

### **CERTIFIED**

- Employment
  1. Kristen DeMeyer – Grade 1 – Rolling Prairie – Effective August 15, 2012

2. Natalie Spevak – Chemistry – NPHS – Effective August 23, 2012
  3. Stephanie Bellinger – Grade 3 – Rolling Prairie – Hired as permanent teacher effective August 9, 2012
  4. Amy Bauer – Temporary Kindergarten Teacher – Beginning approximately September 11, 2012 through approximately November 9, 2012
  5. Margaret Buss – Temporary Science Teacher – NPHS – Beginning August 9, 2012 through January 4, 2013.
  6. Phyllis Shepherd – Temporary PE/Health Teacher – NPMS – Beginning August 9, 2012 and continuing through January 4, 2013.
- Extra Curricular - Resignations
    1. Ron McVay – Assistant 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball – Resignation effective August 15, 2012
    2. John Gensic – Assistant Middle School Boys Basketball – Resignation effective August 15, 2012
  - Extra-Curricular – Employment
    1. Jennifer Smith – Academic Super Bowl – NPMS
    2. Jennifer Smith – Assistant 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball
    3. Ron McVay – Assistant Football – NPMS
    4. Brad Phillips – Head Football – NPMS
    5. Tiffany Galus – Instrumental Music Director – NPHS
    6. Tiffany Galus – Instrumental Music Director – NPMS
    7. Josh Bolakowski – Assistant Wrestling – NPMS
    8. Josh Bolakowski – Assistant Football – NPMS

### **NON-CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
  1. Jack Haverstock – Bus Driver – Leave of absence beginning 8/13/12 and continuing to approximately March, 2013
  2. Cathy Foreman – Food Service – NPMS – Resignation effective August 24, 2012

3. Kathy Marciniak – Instructional Assistant – Prairie View – Resignation effective August 7, 2012
  4. Susan Garreffa – Food Service – Prairie View – Resignation effective August 27, 2012
- Employment/Transfer
    1. Diane Molnar – Bus Driver – Transfer to double route #12 – HS/PV effective 8/27/12
    2. Wendy McNeely – Instructional Assistant – Grade 3 – Olive Elementary School effective August 28, 2012
    3. Jenelle Murphy – Instructional Assistant – Grade 2 – Olive Elementary School effective September 10, 2012
    4. Pat Skaggs – Instructional Assistant – Grade 2 – Olive Elementary School effective August 27, 2012
    5. Garrett Curless – Instructional Assistant – Grade 5 – Olive Elementary School effective August 20, 2012
    6. Wendy Sensow – Instructional Assistant – Grade 2 – Prairie View Elementary School effective August 30, 2012
    7. Margaret Gulotta – Instructional Assistant – Grade 5 – Prairie View Elementary School effective August 30, 2012
    8. Megan Horvath – Instructional Assistant – Grade 1 – Prairie View Elementary School effective August 20, 2012
    9. Lianne Beliveau – Instructional Assistant – Grade 3 – Prairie View Elementary School effective August 20, 2012
    10. Brandi Heeter – Instructional Assistant – Grade 3 – Prairie View Elementary School effective August 23, 2012
    11. Charles Webster – Instructional Assistant – Grade 5 – Prairie View Elementary School effective August 23, 2012
    12. Rhonda Kujawa – Instructional Assistant – Grade 2 – Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective August 22, 2012

13. Denise Tuholski – Food Service – Transfer from 5-hour cook to 6-hour cook at NPMS effective September 4, 2012
  14. Lisa Hicks – Food Service – Transfer from 3-hour cook to 5-hour cook at NPMS effective September 4, 2012
  15. Tonia Armato – Cook - 3-hour – NPMS – Effective September 4, 2012
  16. Tricia Toth – Bus Driver – Route #41 – Effective September 10, 2012
  17. Teena Trent – Cook – 4 hours – Prairie View – Effective September 10, 2012
- Extra-Curricular – Resignations
    1. Jennifer Rose – Building Base Team Member – Olive Elementary – Resignation effective August 13, 2012
  - Extra-Curricular - Employment
    1. Brent Campos – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Head Volleyball
    2. Shaun Prestin – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Volleyball
    3. Zeda Wisniewski – Building Base Team Member – Olive Elementary
    4. Sara Timm – Co-Middle School Swim Coach
    5. William Gatlin – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Football
    6. Kevin Macias – Assistant Wrestling Coach – NPMS
    7. Kevin Moser – Dive Coach - NPHS

## **REPORTS**

- Superintendent's Report
  - The Cross Country Invitational will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2012.
  - Chris DeLater contacted Mr. Dermody and indicated that Hamilton Grove wanted to donate \$1,000 targeted for educational based efforts in recognition of their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Dermody contacted Dawn Rizek who works with Don Bayne of the Wesleyan Church through the Food

Bank Program and felt the donation would best serve our students through this initiative. The Food Bank services our children every Friday by providing food bags for identified students to take home. This donation would double the students served and will now service 60 students from Olive, Rolling Prairie and Prairie View Elementary Schools. Dawn Rizek noted that 100% of the money goes towards the children. All workers are voluntary.

- The LaPorte County Library holds a summer reading program and the NPUSC was notified that Rolling Prairie led the reading participation for all county sites . Laura Palman, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade teacher at Olive Elementary School, was recognized for spearheading this program.
  - Rolling Prairie and Prairie View Elementary Schools will participate in the BURST Program which supports MClass and the use of differentiated reading strategies through the State of Indiana.
  - Mr. Dermody advised that our new website will be launched in the near future.
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- Bond Refinancing Presentation
    - Curt Pletcher of Umbaugh and Associates reviewed the process for refinancing the 2006 bonds (Middle School Project) and the 2004 Pension Bonds. Taking advantage of lower interest rates, the NPUSC could possibly experience about a \$500,000 savings with the refinancing. We could also eliminate the tax neutrality by refinancing the severance bonds.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- The Board approved the 2013 Budget and Resolution of Appropriations and Tax Rates as presented.
- The Board approved the adoption of the Capital Projects plan and resolution for 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- The Board approved the adoption of the Transportation bus replacement plan and resolution for 2013.
- The Board approved the Indiana Housing Community Development Authority contract for the Neighborhood Assistance Program in the amount of \$3,620 in tax credits for the Activity Center.
- The Board approved the Safe Haven Grant in the amount of \$14,500 for one year to fund the after-school program staff at the Activity Center.
- The Board approved the Teachers Credit Union Grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support the NPUSC Freshman Academy.

- The Board accepted the following donations:
  - Delta Beta Phi-Epsilon - \$500 to Olive Elementary in honor of Katie Washburn
  - Private Family Foundation - \$30,000/\$25,000/\$20,000 – 3-year matching grant for the Activity Center
  - Alcoa Foundation - \$15,000 – Activity Center and Bobcat Club for STEM activities in Grades 3-6.
  - ArcelorMittal (INTEK/INKOTE) - \$2,000 & \$1,000 in match) to support three Junior Lego Robot Teams
  - Farm Credit Services/4-H LaPorte County/Farm Bureau - \$3,000 & \$500 – Garden supplies for the Activity Center

Kregg VanMeter has been instrumental in obtaining donations for the Activity Center.

- The Board approved the Conflict of Interest Disclosure for Nadine Kaminski.
- The Board approved the Superintendent’s Evaluation Instrument as recommended by the ISBA and IAPSS.
- The Board approved the resolution authorizing proceeding with refunding of the 2006 bonds (Middle School Project) and 2004 Pension bonds.
- The Board approved the resolution approving form of amendment to lease for the 2006 middle school project. There will be a meeting with the New Prairie Building Corporation to accept or deny the amendment to lease on September 13, 2012.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Dale Groves would like the teachers and administrators to try and work through this new and challenging evaluation process. Dale said he worked with a principal who quoted: “Tough situations never last, but tough people do.”
- Bernie wanted to commend and thank everyone on the positive recognitions we have had this evening.

Bernie wanted to commend Kelley Kitchen for what she has done for the corporation.

- LuAnn wanted to thank everyone as well. She is amazed at the good that comes out of the community. We are off to a great start.

- Rich Shail announced that the period has ended for School Board filing. Dale Groves and Rich Shail will be running unopposed for another term. Philip King will be running unopposed in Kankakee/Galena (LuAnn's position).
- Rich recently heard the football broadcast of last Friday's game on Broadcast.com. Two former NP students interviewed Mr. Ingram. Rich was very impressed with the positive comments that were exhibited by Mr. Ingram.