

BOARD NOTES
JANUARY 24, 2011

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, January 24, 2011 with all board members present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The board adopted the agenda as presented. Rich Shail recommended removing Action Item "F" – Approving Bids for the Remodeling Projects at New Prairie High School and Rolling Prairie Elementary School because the process to recommend a contractor has not been concluded at this time.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- The Board recognized Phillip Edgerton, a student at Rolling Prairie Elementary School. Phillip's tree ornament was selected by First Lady Cheri Daniels for the State's Official Tree Trim.
- Chris Gesse was recognized by the Board for her recent teaching ideas that were published in a book, "Differentiation that Really Works: Strategies from Real Teachers for Real Classrooms, Grades K-2" through Ball State University and Prufrock Press.
- Mark Norton gave an update on the ISTEP+ On-line Testing process.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – December 16, 2010 and January 10, 2011
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Cassie Pavey – Kindergarten Teacher – Rolling Prairie Elementary – Leave of Absence beginning approximately February 27, 2011 and continuing through April 22, 2011.

2. Deanne Gonzalez – Math Teacher – New Prairie High School – Leave of Absence beginning approximately May 2, 2011 and continuing through the end of the 2010-2011 school year.
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Josh Bolakowski – Co-Wrestling Coach – Middle School
 2. Keith Hite – Assistant Robotics Coach – NPHS

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Melissa Thomas – Cashier – Prairie View Elementary – Resignation effective January 20, 2011
 2. Cindy Kirkham – Food Service – Olive Elementary – Resignation effective January 14, 2011
 3. Michelle Banks – Food Service – Resignation effective January 5, 2011
 4. Angela Lenig – Receptionist – Prairie View Elementary – Resignation effective January 21, 2011
 5. Stephanie Bellinger – ESL Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary – Resignation effective December 17, 2010
 6. Chrisi Smith – Food Service – Middle School – Resignation effective January 28, 2011
- Employment
 1. Williams Pinto – Temporary ESL Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective immediately and continuing through the end of the 2010-2011 school year
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Brent Campos – Head 6th Grade Girls Basketball
 2. Shaun Prestin – Assistant 6th Grade Girls Basketball
 3. Brian Dolezal – Head Wrestling – Middle School
 4. Ryan Balanow – Co-Assistant Wrestling Coach – Middle School
 5. Kevin Moser – Assistant Boys/Girls Swimming – Middle School
 6. Dan Bellinger – Assistant Boys 7/8th Grade Basketball

REPORT

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody received an e-mail from a parent commending the Director of Health Services. During a recent vision screening, their child was found to have some eye issues that could have resulted in surgery and possible blindness. She has a 100% chance to heal without surgery.
 - Mr. Dermody advised that our staff and students are preparing for the ISTEP testing process. We are also sending a School Messenger contact to parents to access an ISTEP+ preparation program on the NPUSC Homepage.
 - Mr. Dermody advised that due to a high claims year and a tightening insurance market, we have been advised that our property, liability and worker's compensation insurance programs for 2011 will experience a significant increase. We are exploring alternate vendors and the concept of joining a risk pool at this time.
 - Rolling Prairie Elementary School has received the LaPorte County Soil and Conservation School of the Year Award. This award is usually presented to an individual, but the school received the honor this year.
 - Mr. Dermody advised that March 18, 2011 was our last built-in snow make-up day and **at this time**, May 27, 2011 will serve as the final student attendance day. May 31, 2011 will then serve as the final teacher workday. **These dates are subject to change due to the possibility of any future cancellations.** Waiver requests have also been submitted to the IDOE after each cancellation this year.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the Alternative to Expulsion Program between the New Prairie United School Corporation and the LaPorte Circuit Court. This is a program for those students who face possible expulsion to continue to earn credits and maintain their enrollment. Students attend a program through the LaPorte Circuit Court. The corporation recommends this step based on the criteria established by the committee.
- The Board approved the revised Joint Agreement with the LaPorte Special Education Cooperative as presented.

- The Board approved the licensing agreement with Pel Industries, Inc. granting a non-exclusive license to print our school name and logo on merchandise and apparel. The New Prairie Schools will receive an 8% royalty on merchandise sold at Walmart and other area retailers. The money will then be forwarded to the high school.
- The Board approved the appointment of Lori Kimmel to the New Carlisle-Olive Twp Library Board effective January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2014.
- The Board approved the Conflict of Interest Disclosure for Bill Rose and C.J.'s Outdoor Services.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie Baltus would like board support to write a letter to our legislators asking that Charter Schools be held to the same standards and evaluative measures as the public schools.
- Rich Shail would like to applaud Frank Bush of the ISBA for their efforts in supporting public education. Bernie said legislators want to hear from the people of their districts.
- Bernie received a request from a patron to re-establish the ROTC program.
- Dale Groves stated that a school is reflective of the community it serves. . We have a good school district. We have that because we have parents and families that are doing what they need to do at home for their kids.

The next regular meeting is February 28, 2011.