

BOARD NOTES  
October 25, 2011

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, October 24, 2011 with Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltus and Dale Groves present. Rich Shail was absent.

Al Williamson reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION**

- Mr. Dermody recognized the New Prairie Board of School Trustees for receiving the Outstanding Board award through the ISBA. Mr. Dermody said there are very few School Boards in the state that achieve this status. He appreciates the dedication of our School Board members.
- Allison Middlebrook, along with students Sabrie Justice, Addyson Bare, Nathan Middlebrook and Mike Klemczak, presented the Anti-Bullying program established at Olive Elementary School.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- Minutes – September 12, 2011
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

**CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations
  1. Kim Zahrt – Physics Teacher – NPHS – Resignation effective November 3, 2011
  2. Clara Clark – HS Principal – Extend resignation date through October 21, 2011

3. Jessica Feathers – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher – Prairie View Elementary School – Leave of Absence beginning approximately February 6, 2012 through March 30, 2012.
  4. Brian Lindorf – PE Teacher – PV/RP Elementary School – Leave of Absence beginning January 9, 2012 through March 2, 2012.
  5. Jackie Hunsberger – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher – Prairie View Elementary School – Retirement effective January 5, 2012.
- Employment
    1. Shannon Wilkins –Temporary Title I Teacher – 1/2 time – Prairie View Elementary School – Beginning October 24, 2011 through the end of the 2011-2012 school year
    2. Shelly Sharp – Temporary 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher – Olive Elementary School – Beginning October 13, 2011 through approximately January 12, 2012
    3. Kari McLaughlin –6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Teacher - 1/2 time – Beginning October 31, 2011 through the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
  - Employment – Extra-Curricular
    1. Tina Trojanowski – RTI Member – 1/3 - Prairie View Elementary School
    2. Janis Kiff – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Leader
    3. Chrystal Wilkeson – Co-PL221 Chair – NPHS

### **NON-CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations
  1. Sharon Strieter – Sunday Indianapolis Route – Resignation effective September 19, 2011
  2. Karen Combs – Food Service – Rolling Prairie – Leave of Absence beginning September 16, 2011 and continuing for approximately four weeks.

- Employment
  1. Jillianne Stratton – Instructional Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Beginning September 19, 2011
  2. Susan McLain – Instructional Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary School beginning September 19, 2011
  3. Denise Kenfield – ESL Assistant – Olive Elementary School – 3 hrs. per week – Beginning September 30, 2011
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
  1. Doug Matthys – JV Girls Basketball
  2. Kristen Freitag – Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball
  3. Bobby Whitenack – Head Wrestling Coach – NPHS
  4. Joel Hostetler – Head Girls Tennis Coach
  5. Donald Stoner – Assistant Wrestling – NPHS
  6. Teresa Hostetler – Assistant Girls Tennis Coach

Mr. Dermody recognized Kim Zahrt who will be retiring after ten years as teacher at New Prairie High School. He also recognized Jackie Hunsberger who will be retiring on January 5, 2012 after 22 years as elementary teacher at Prairie View and Hudson Lake Elementary School.

## **REPORTS**

- Superintendent's Report
  - Mr. Dermody announced that the current ADM/ME count for New Prairie is 2,759 reflecting an increase of 53 students compared to the 2010-2011 count.
  - Mr. Dermody also announced that the high school graduation rate increased from 93.78% in 2010 to 96.98% in 2011.
  - Mr. Dermody wanted to commend the staff and community for participation in the Parent/Teacher Conferences last week. He also wanted to recognize the Teacher's Association for collaborating as a partner in the restoration of this process.
  - Kody Kleine has been named a National Merit Commendable Student.

- Mr. Dermody commended the choral teachers, Donna Mitchell, Lisa Kovach, Lori Kienitz and Chad Strasser for the great choral festival held on October 12<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked the administrators for their supervision during the event.
- Angie Hambling was named a Fellow of the Northwest Society of Innovations for her Activity Center initiative. Angie was recognized at a dinner in Hammond where she commended Kregg VanMeter for being so instrumental in the success of the Center.
- Bernie Baltes highlighted the topics from the recent ISBA Conference he and Mr. Dermody attended.
  - Involving the entire community in education
  - Ways to utilize technology to enhance education
  - New legislation with evaluation of educators

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- The Board approved the employment of Benjamin Ingram as Principal of New Prairie High School effective November 8, 2011. Mr. Ingram is the current Associate Principal at Lowell High School. He has served as both a senior high and middle school teacher and coach prior to commencing his administrative career at Lowell in 2004. Mr. Ingram was also selected as the Project Manager for the Implementation of Small Learning Communities. The interview committee was in full support of the recommendation.
- The Board approved the revision of the South LaPorte County Special Ed Cooperative Joint Agreement due to the consolidation of the Tri Township Consolidated School Corporation.
- The Board approved the resolution authorizing issuance of individual procurement cards for the purchase of goods and services in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. This process will reduce costs for preparing purchase orders and ease registration confirmations.
- The Board approved the overnight field trip request for the All Star Band weekend on January 13-15, 2012 in Terre Haute.
- The Board approved the overnight field trip request for the FBLA to attend Leadership Training in Indianapolis on November 3-4, 2011.
- The Board also approved the overnight field trip request for the High School Spell Bowl to attend state competition in West Lafayette on November 11-12, 2011.

- The Board accepted the donation from Feed the Children valued at \$877.
- The Board accepted the donation from the Challenger Learning Center in the amount of \$200 for a field trip for the Young Astronauts Club at Olive Elementary School.
- The Board accepted donations amounting to \$315.91 from Target Stores and miscellaneous donations for the Science Lab at Prairie View Elementary School.
- The Board accepted a donation from the 4-H Clubs in the amount of \$150 for mulch for Prairie View Elementary School.

### **COMMENTS**

- All Board members wanted to welcome Ben Ingram to the New Prairie Schools
- LuAnn recently heard many positive comments about the New Prairie Schools from individuals in the Elkhart area.
- Bernie wanted to announce that three New Prairie students will be participating in the state cross country finals.