

BOARD NOTES
DECEMBER 16, 2010

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Thursday, December 16, 2010 with all board members present.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- The Board recognized the Olive Twp. Spell Bowl Team which placed 8th in the State at the Purdue Elementary Spell Bowl. Olive also placed first in their class. Certificates were presented to the team members and Coach Gail Hartman.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – November 22, 2010
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Monica Flagg – Leave of Absence beginning approximately April 21, 2011 and continuing through the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

NON-CERTIFIED

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Al Pesce – Assistant Girls Track – NPHS

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody reviewed the holiday break schedule for the Central Office. Board members received a copy of the schedule.
 - Mr. Dermody advised that in an effort to continue to cut costs, we have altered our mail process in order to maximize the custodians' time in the buildings. Previously, the lead custodians had to deliver mail to the Central Office every day which takes them out of the buildings for at least an hour. In working with Lloyd Wood, we will now have the bus drivers drop off mail and pick up mail every day. We are also working with a company that does mail aggregating. All mail will be brought into the Central Office and we will meter the mail at a reduced rate of .41 cents each. The company will pick up the mail and deliver it to the post office at the discounted rate.
 - Mr. Dermody announced that Jerry Baltes, Head Men & Women's Cross Country Coach at Grand Valley State University, was named National Women's Coach of the Year. Jerry is a former student athlete at New Prairie. Ryan Toth, also a former student, was named to the All American status. Ryan is coached by Jerry.
 - Mr. Dermody recently attended the Indiana Superintendent's Conference in Indianapolis. He said they stressed that successful school corporations implement process systems while maintaining the creativity of the teachers.
 - Mr. Dermody also attended a legal seminar in Indianapolis. The seminar focus was on technology issues – the student and teacher use of Facebook and Cyber Bullying. These are problem areas that are increasing more and more.
 - Mr. Dermody advised that the snow make-up days will be January 28th and February 21st, 2011.
 - Mr. Dermody advised that our Professional Development In-Service is scheduled for December 20th. The board is invited to attend. We are going to incorporate our staff to present to their peers. Mr. Dermody appreciates the staff members who are willing to step up and help present.

- Mr. Dermody advised that our legislators are responsive to our needs. We had a snow pile-up at Cougar Road that impeded vision. Bernie Baltes contacted Mr. Dermody with his concerns. Mr. Dermody contacted Jim Arnold who in turn contacted the appropriate personnel. The snow was removed the next morning. Mr. Dermody would like to also thank both Jim Arnold and the IDOT personnel who made this happen.
- Mr. Dermody advised that the media has been notified of the Notice to Bid for the New Prairie High School/Rolling Prairie Kitchen Renovation Project. Bids will be opened on January 18, 2011. Bernie would hope that we will be installing high efficiency equipment.
- China Trip – Jim Holifield
 - Mr. Holifield introduced Wei Han who is teaching Mandarin Chinese to our high school and middle school students. Wei Han wanted to thank the board for the opportunity to be in our school corporation.
 - Mr. Holifield reviewed the preliminary details of the student exchange trip to China. At this time, there are 12 students, five staff members and two parents that will visit China from June 21 to July 2nd. The estimated cost is \$1,400 plus the cost of their Visa. Mr. Holifield addressed the concerns of the Board regarding food, sanitation, pollution and medical concerns. Rich Shail said he has actively traveled to other countries and China is one of the most interesting places and one of the most welcoming places he has visited. He hopes the students and staff will enjoy the trip.

On a motion by Baltes, seconded by Schwingendorf, the meeting was suspended.

A Public Hearing was held to comply with Indiana statute regarding New Prairie High School's lack of improvement status. The High School has been placed on probationary status. As part of PL221 guidelines, we are required to hold this hearing to discuss the steps that will be taken to correct this.

Mr. Shail asked for community comments. There were no public comments at this time.

- Clara Clark advised that the High School initiated an improvement plan long before they were placed on probation. The Mathematics staff started in the summer of 2010 when they met two days per week to work on curriculum. Clara reviewed the following steps that have been implemented:
 - Analyzed Data – 2009-2010
 - School Day Changes for the 2010-2011 School year
 - All math classes will meet every day for 50 minutes.
 - Teachers will present content in smaller amounts.
 - Students will work on math daily to assist with retention.
 - Engaging Lessons/Activities
 - All teachers will create lessons which engage their students in their instruction.
 - Teachers work collaboratively to discuss/create different lessons and activities.
 - All teachers will use ECA like questions in all assessments.
 - Daily Practices
 - All teachers will write the standards-based learning goals on the board.
 - All teachers will incorporate ECA test preparation as part of their daily instruction.
 - The importance of the test will be promoted to students.
 - Additional Efforts
 - Department leaders will make contact with schools that have successful ECA results.
 - Remediation Efforts
 - Students will attend a minimum of eight remediation sessions held before and after school.
 - Students will be assigned a remediation group.
 - Additional Testing Opportunities
 - Students will be retested in December and May.

Dale Groves asked what types of classroom activities have changed. Clara said teachers will use more technology like the Inspired calculators. Al asked if parents were contacted that their child needs help. Clara said parents transported their children to school and letters were sent home. Al also asked if we are working with the transition between the middle school and high school. Clara said we are working with the NPMS Algebra teacher.

Rich Shail said he knows the high school has put their best foot forward and are working hard to move out of probation. Keep up the good work. Mr. Dermody said he has sat in on staff meetings and talked about the linkage between the middle school and high school. We are determined to correct the situation. It speaks well that the entire Math Department is here tonight. These are responses developed by them. Mr. Dermody feels we are going in the right direction.

The hearing was closed at this time.

On a motion by Williamson, seconded by Groves, the regular meeting resumed.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board appointed Cathy Henning to the New Carlisle/Olive Library Board for the period of January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2014.
- The board accepted a donation of \$500 from Mr. & Mrs. David Davis, a member of the 1960 Rolling Prairie Alumni, to be used for the 5th grade Manners Luncheon at Rolling Prairie Elementary School. Mr. Baltes said this came about because Mrs. Hambling took time to take this group on a tour of the building on a Saturday. Mr. Baltes said this individual gets the credit for the donation, but Mrs. Hambling gets the credit for making this happen.
- The board approved the second reading and approval of the following board policies: 2260.01, 3122.02, 3160, 3419.01, 3430.01, 4122.02, 4160, 4362, 4419.01, 4430.01, 5517, 8120 and 8500.01. Board policy #3430.01 was not originally listed for approval, but the board had received a copy of the policy to review. The board amended the motion to include this policy number for approval.
- The board set the re-organizational meeting for Monday, January 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Bernie Baltes will not be present for that meeting, but he will be sworn in as a new board member by Joann Evans or Bill Kaminski at an alternate date, but prior to January 15, 2011.
- The board approved the Conflict and Waiver for William Kaminski. LaPorte Hospital is represented by his brother, James Kaminski, who is also a partner in the firm. The New Prairie United School Corporation will enter into an agreement with LaPorte Regional Hospital for an Athletic Trainer.

- The board approved the Athletic Trainer Agreement with LaPorte Regional Hospital for services effective January 1, 2011 and continuing through July 31, 2011 at the cost of \$15,000 per year. The cost will be pro-rated through July 31, 2011. We will then be issued another contract until the end of December, 2011.
- The board adopted a resolution that will be sent to the state legislators regarding school funding inequities. John Glenn School Corporation had taken issue with the discrepancies in the school funding. They asked school corporations around the state to adopt the resolution to present to the legislators.
- The board approved the overnight field trip for the high school All State Band members to Terre Haute from January 14-16, 2011. The board also approved the overnight field trips for the Robotics Team to attend competition in Lafayette from March 17-19, 2011; the Buckeye Regional in Cleveland, Ohio from April 7-9, 2011; and the First World Championships in St. Louis, MO from April 27-30, 2011.
- The board approved the bio-diesel fuel bid with Rackham Services at the total cost of \$2.6964 per gallon beginning January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Lloyd Wood explained the base dock price will fluctuate. We are locking in the margin of profit of what they can charge over that dock price.
- The board approved the New Prairie High School Curriculum Guide as recommended by Clara Clark and the high school department heads.

BOARD COMMENTS

- The board wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.
- Bernie Baltes wanted to express appreciation to the bus drivers for the last few days of driving in this weather. The back roads were very difficult to get around.
- Bernie said we talked about being thankful for the good we are doing. With the discussion on probation, let's not lose sight of the good things we are doing with our students. Students come out of the high school earning 20-30 college credits. He hopes we don't lose sight of the good things.
- Bernie said the vision and mission statements do not say anything about preparing for tests. We are preparing students for society. As we strive to improve academics, do not lose sight of developing productive students.

- Bernie talked about a school in Ohio that has cyber days when there is a snow day. Everything is on-line for students. He felt we may want to look into this.
- Bernie read an article in the School Board Journal on the comparison of Charter schools. It is important to remember that the public schools educate all students.
- Rich Shail wanted to go on record to recognize our new superintendent. He really hit the ground running. Rich drives around the school corporation and very seldom does he not see Mr. Dermody's car here. This man has his heart and soul in the corporation and we appreciate what he is doing.

The reorganization meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.