

BOARD NOTES  
June 28, 2010

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, June 28, 2010 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Dale Groves present. Dr. Bender was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The board adopted the agenda as presented.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION**

- The board recognized Clara Clark and New Prairie High School for receiving the Gold Award for the High Schools That Work program.
- Cassie Neff reviewed the new PLATO – Credit Recovery Program that is being using this summer for students at the high school. Cassie said the program offers all the Core 40 requirements based on state and federal guidelines. The program is designed to be used for students who have failed, non-compliant or for those students who want to better their grades. There are more than 75 students enrolled this summer. Previously, limited subjects were offered to only 15-30 students during summer school. There is a charge of \$30 per semester and no cost to Free and Reduced students. If students took the credit recovery program through an outside source, it would cost \$120-\$240. At LaPorte, there was a charge of \$190 and \$50 at the A.K. Smith Career Center. Students take the test on-line or they can take it on-line at home. It is not easy to cheat because the test will lock and there is no way to predict what questions will be on the test.

Students expressed the pros and cons to the program. One student said she liked the fact that she could work at home, but some things are not explained thoroughly and some words were not explained. She did not like the idea that she could not ask questions. Another student felt the Geometry section was helpful. He liked it better than the classes he has taken. He felt he received more information and it was easier to learn in a shorter period of time.

## **INFORMATION**

- Due to the changes in the budget hearing dates from the State Board of Accounts, we will need to change the board meeting dates for August and September. The new meeting dates will be August 16 and September 13<sup>th</sup>. It is also recommended that we keep the October meeting scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> in order to balance the claim cycle for payment of bills.
- The board advised that student and adult lunch prices will remain the same for the 2010-2011 school year as follows:
  - Elementary - \$1.60
  - Middle/H.S. - \$1.85
  - Adult - \$2.70
  - Elementary Breakfast - \$1.00
  - Middle/H.S. Breakfast - \$1.00
  - Adult Breakfast - \$1.30
  - Milk - \$.40

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

- The board approved the Consent Items as follows:
  - Minutes – May 24, 2010
  - Financial Reports
  - Claims
  - Payroll
  - Personnel as follows:

### **CERTIFIED**

- Resignations/Retirements/Leaves
  1. Sallie Hanson – Teacher – Family & Consumer Sciences – NPHS – Effective June 14, 2010
- Employment – Extra-Curriculars for 2010-2011 School Year
  1. Melissa Kobitz – RTI Chair – Prairie View
  2. Tara Bush – RTI Member – 1/3 – Prairie View
  3. Wendi Hemphill – RTI Member – 1/3 – Prairie View
  4. Sharon Bashaw – RTI Member – 1/3 – Prairie View
  5. Krissy Surma – RTI Chair – Rolling Prairie
  6. Allison Middlebrook – RTI Co-Chair – Olive
  7. Diana Jones – RTI Co-Chair – Olive

8. Linda Krick – RTI Member – 1/7 – Olive
9. Casey Gumm – RTI Member – 1/7 – Olive
10. Wendy Sundwall – RTI Member – 1/7 – Olive
11. Cynthia Schuler – RTI Member – 1/7 – Olive
12. Linda Behm – RTI Member – 1/7 – Olive
13. Leifschon Walker – RTI Member – 1/7 – Olive
14. Casey Gumm – Student Council – Olive
15. Sue Koziel – Student Council – Prairie View
16. Susan French – International Club – Middle School
17. Shannon McBride – Co-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Leader
18. Tammy Moore – Co-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Leader
19. Chad Strasser – Vocal Music Director – NPHS
20. Mike Babcock – National Honor Society - NPHS
21. Greg Miller – Co-International Club Sponsor – NPHS
22. Sandra Murray – Co-International Club Sponsor – NPHS
23. Sandra Murray – Student Senate Advisor – NPHS
24. Jemiah Feece – Co- Cheerleading Sponsor – NPHS
25. Ashley Wojtysiak – Head Boys Swimming – NPHS
26. Natalie Sandoval – Assistant Boys/Girls Cross Country – NPHS
27. Jim Miko – Department Chair – Social Studies
28. Kim Holifield – Department Chair – Science
29. Kathy Nova – Department Chair – P.E.
30. Greg Miller – Department Chair – Foreign Language
31. Gale Gonder – Department Chair – Math
32. Mark Peterson – Co-Department Chair – Business
33. Josh Bolakowski – Co-Department Chair – Business
34. Sid Shroyer – Department Chair – Language Arts
35. Becky Higgins – Department Chair – Fine Arts
36. Debbie Varga – Department Chair – Practical Arts

### **NON-CERTIFIED**

- Resignations/Leaves
  1. Erica Ketterer – Library Assistant – Prairie View – Resignation effective May 26, 2010
- Employment
  1. Mary Johnson – Health Assistant – Prairie View – Effective August 16, 2010
  2. Laurie Lanning – Health Assistant – Rolling Prairie – Effective August 16, 2010

- Employment – Extra-Curricular for 2010-2011 School Year
  1. Susan Brasseur – PL221 – NPHS
  2. Craig Kuta – Girls Golf – NPHS
  3. Craig Kuta – Boys Golf – NPHS
  4. Larry Szczechowski – Assistant Football – NPHS
  5. William Gumm – Freshman Football
  6. Bobby Whitenack – Assistant Football – NPHS
  7. Fred Scott – Freshman Boys Basketball
  8. Joel Hostetler – Head Boys Tennis
  9. Teresa Hostetler – Assistant Boys Tennis
  10. Zach Blackwood – Assistant Boys Swimming
  11. Eric Lower – Diving Coach B/G – NPHS
  12. Kristen Jacobs – Auxiliary Guard (Poms) NPHS
  13. Kristen Kleist – Co-Cheerleading Coach – NPHS
  14. Kristen Jacobs – Spirit Club – NPHS
  15. Heather Alva – Co-Yearbook Sponsor – Middle School
  16. Rhonda Smoroske – Co-Yearbook Sponsor – Middle School
  17. Camille Burns – Math Bowl – Olive
  18. Melissa Smith – RTI Member – 1/7 – Olive
  19. Michelle Beliveau – Flag Corp - NPHS

## **REPORTS**

- Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bender announced that this message goes to all certified staff that voted on the 1% pay reduction. He said people stepped out of their comfort zone and did what administration asked and voted to decrease their salaries. Since that time, we have had a number of things occur. Retirement issues could not have fallen better. We did not have to replace all the positions because of adjustments in the curriculum at the high school and middle school. This generated huge savings. Then we had the reductions made in January.

We are available to advise that it is the intent of the school board and administration to not implement the 1% reduction. But we will leave the option open in November and December based on the state. We have had conversation with the Uniserve Director so they understand what this is about. There will be no 1% reduction on anyone's base salary beginning July 1. We reserve the right to do so in the middle of the year if we have to. We have been

excellent stewards in the budget. We have brought about numerous changes in the staffing. This bargaining group had trust in what we had to do. We owe this back to them because of this trust. Our teachers took a big step in doing this. This was not a popular decision around the state. We do not know if other corporations will be able to follow this lead. Keith Dennis and I have been working on this and reviewing this for several months. We feel very confident to bring this to you tonight. We do not need a vote by the board, but just wanted to let the staff know we are not here to make money, but to do what is best for students. We are very excited to bring this information. It is a large amount of work. We feel it is the right thing to do.

- ISTEP Scores

Dr. Bender advised that ISTEP scores came out recently. Areas improved at the middle school and the elementary schools. That is good news, but we cannot stop there. Just to pass something is not good enough. We certainly want to continue. Dr. Bender would like to challenge the schools to have 85% passing. Our school district has the ability to do that. High ability students should be at 95%. We have been working on the high school rates. That will continue. If just passing is enough, then when you need to look for a doctor – any doctor will do.

- Attendance

We currently have enrolled 112 out of district students that will be attending for the 2010-2011 school year. It was the right thing to do. Even with 112 students, we are 55 students less than last year. We are losing ground on students coming into kindergarten. We have to look at why this is happening. We have two teachers on RIF. The 55 students are high. We have some classes that we have closed enrolment because of advancing those students. Bernie said if you drive around the community, you will see all the “For Sale” signs. Dr. Bender said foreclosures in a housing development are not good either.

Dr. Bender said this is his last Superintendent’s Report. He wanted to thank the Board for the reception last Wednesday evening. He wanted to thank Rich, Bernie, LuAnn and Dale for attending. It was a great time and he appreciates it.

Bernie said with the ISTEP scores, every school was up. Is there a reason why everyone advanced? Dr. Bender said he has heard statewide a number of stories, but he does not know for sure. He asked if it is last year's 4<sup>th</sup> compared to this year's 5<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Bender said no – it is linear. Dr. Bender said he hopes the goal is not to pass, but to achieve mastery level. Students must learn. You cannot just present material to them.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- The board approved a resolution to transfer funds from the Olive certified salary to the enrichment program salary and benefits so we could continue to employ the Activity Center Director. Dr. Bender said this time of the year, it is not unusual to shift funds from the federal funds into the general fund. We have a very unstable environment from the federal funds. We shifted out those funds from Olive to pay for the Title II teachers and pay for the Director.
- The board accepted the donation from the Rolling Prairie PTO in the amount of \$12,309.75 as presented.
- The board approved the Food Bids as recommended by Tammy Watkins. Dr. Bender said Tammy Watkins does an excellent job in keeping the cafeteria fund in the black. She does a phenomenal job. Very few districts around the state run their cafeteria budget in the black. This is a very effective program that we should be proud of.
- Rich Shail indicated that it is with great pleasure that this board recommend Jim Dermody as the Superintendent of the New Prairie United School Corporation effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. The board approved the recommendation unanimously. Rich Shail said it is ironic that when Rich first came to this corporation, Jim Dermody hired him. Now he is in a position to hire Mr. Dermody. Rich presented Jim with a New Prairie baseball shirt with #1 on the back.

Jim Dermody said he wanted to thank the board and said he is thrilled and honored to be named superintendent. He is prepared to work diligently and collectively to achieve the corporation and board's goals set by Dr. Bender, the students and staff and continue the drive for the New Prairie Schools.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Bernie said we talked about temperature control settings. At the reception the other night, he felt it was rather cold. He asked if we are maintaining the temperature controls we agreed to. Keith Dennis said they are where they are supposed to be. We will have some recommendations to lower them. We have to watch out for the computers.
- LuAnn would like to thank Dr. Bender for everything he has done for us.

Dr. Bender said she has been an awesome board member and friend. LuAnn would also like to welcome Jim Dermody.

- Al Williamson said he was sorry he missed the reception due to a prior commitment. He wanted to thank Dr. Bender for everything he did for our corporation. He came in on some difficult times. We are definitely going in the right direction. Jim Dermody has some big shoes to fill.
- Rich said it is bittersweet to say goodbye. Even during your last meeting, you always talked about “we”. It would be easy to say what we need to do. You thought of “us” for the best of the corporation to the end. We will miss you and your family. New Prairie has gone in the direction we expect. We will continue to move in that direction with Jim Dermody.

The next meeting will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.