

BOARD NOTES

August 16, 2010

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, August 16, 2010 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, LuAnn Schwingendorf, Bernie Baltes and Dale Groves present. Mr. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Jim Dermody recognized Brandon Willett along with his mother Jennifer and sister Kaylee. Mr. Dermody said we are very proud to have this opportunity to recognize Brandon who pulled a semi-conscious man from Hudson Lake and performed CPR and saved his life. This CPR training occurred under the direction of Kathy Nova, teacher at NPHS. Mr. Dermody said we feel very proud to recognize Brandon for the steps he took. We would also like to recognize Brandon at the New Prairie football game on Friday night.

Doug Snyder said at the High School, they were as proud as his mom to read the article on Brandon. Doug said he is proud that he knew him and he was able to step up to save someone's life. This is one of the greatest things that you can do. Doug asked Kathy Nova to be here because she does the training. Doug said you never know when you might be able to use this training. You may go through life and never utilize it. It came faster in your life. Congratulations – you are a hero.

Mr. Dermody said Brandon was there for the right reason at the right time. He has done a good job academically as well. He is enrolled in the auto program at the A.K. Smith Career Center and he is a member of the football team.

- Mr. Dermody received a letter from the ISBA recognizing the New Prairie School Board for Outstanding status. Rich Shail will also receive recognition for obtaining a Level II status. Congratulations to our board. Rich said it is a pleasure to work with you guys. This is a major accomplishment for this board.

The board suspended the board meeting to conduct the Budget Hearing.

BUDGET HEARING

- Keith Dennis conducted the Budget Hearing. Mr. Dennis said there was an article about New Prairie receiving \$2 million worth of stimulus money. We had money that went to the Co-Op. Also, \$1 million is for the Activity Center. About \$1.8 million was suspended from the state grant and then they gave it back. This is not new money.

Keith said the published budget is driven by a graduation that we have no control. You will use every resource available. We build an operational budget based on new money. That money will go down by \$119,000, balancing new revenues with the expenditures.

- The budget is built on an ADM of 2,730 students. We are currently at 2685.5. We have had a decline of district students of 100 students. We have 138 transfers and lost 100 of our own students. If we did not have those transfer students, we would be hurting. Free and reduced is a major factor in the budget. We have had an increase, but have not recognized any advantage to that now. There is no new revenue because they have not changed the index to date. We would lose about \$177,000 if ADM was today. That is as low as it would go because of the restoration grant.
- The Career and Technology are expected to decline by \$73,000 because of the shift in the scheduling at the high school. Students' schedules would decrease by one elective.
- We have a decrease in special education students from 461 to 445, but there is an increase in the budget by \$382,000. There was stimulus money that benefited us through the Co-op. They carried us in the amount of \$304,000.
- The certified teacher step is \$127,000 or 1.5%. The retirement savings reduced the budget by \$419,000. There was a net reduction of five teachers and gained by paying less for the two new teachers. We do not have to budget the insurance incentive for next year because we had to include that in the 2010 budget.

- We made the \$700,000 budget reductions in January, 2010 and have carried that through the 2011 budget. There was the \$25,000 facility usage that we were going to institute, but after discussions with the board, we will look for other ways to make up that reduction.
- Health Insurance – We are anticipating an 8% increase. The trending is about 15%. We have reserves and may be able to pay down some of the increases. The MASE board will be reviewing these options.
- Custodial Services cannot be taken out of the CPF funding which is \$266,000. The Activity Center Director will be paid from the General Fund. The energy budget has been reduced by \$22,000. The operational budget decreased by \$116,000.
- The budget recommends reserves for 5% state support reduction and 1% salary reduction if necessary.
- CPF – Incorporates January budget adjustments. There are no major projects. It does include:
 - \$120,000 for a well at Prairie View
 - Bernie asked what the size of the well is. Keith will get that information.
 - \$1,228,000 in technology and support staff
 - Mr. Dermody said the state will be requiring some grade levels to do ISTEP on-line in the spring.
 - We have added building discretionary expenses as follows:
 - High School - \$20,000
 - Middle School - \$15,000
 - Elementary - \$10,000 each

Bernie is concerned that we are losing the technology funding because we have to cut down a class. He does not like to see us losing those opportunities for the students. He understands the scheduling, but wished we could still offer opportunities for students.

Jim Dermody said Keith deserves credit for the work he has done on the budget hearing.

The budget hearing ended at 7:08 p.m. There were no comments from the audience.

On a motion by Baltes and seconded by Groves, the meeting resumed.

CONSENT ITEMS

The board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- Minutes – July 26, 2010
- Financial Reports
- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Krista Smith – Spirit Club – Middle School
 2. Kelle Cartwright – Co-Team Leader – 8th Grade
 3. Dena True – Co-Team Leader – 8th Grade
 4. Matt Flagg – Assistant Football Coach – NPHS
 5. Tim Scott – JV Boys Basketball Coach

NON-CERTIFIED

- Resignations/Leaves
 1. Lori Schneider – Secretary – NPHS – Effective 7/24/10
 2. Cassie Friend – ESL Assistant – Prairie View – Effective 8/5/10
- Employment/Transfers
 1. Lori Stevens – Food Service – Transfer from Lunch Aide – Rolling Prairie to Cook – 5 hrs. – High School – Effective 8/16/10
 2. Michelle Banks – Lunch Aide – Middle School – Beginning 8/16/10

3. Robin Savchick – Transfer from Receptionist – NPHS to Secretary – NPHS – effective immediately.
 4. Anne Spahn – Transfer from Remedial Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary to Receptionist – NPHS – Effective immediately
 5. Maria Lewis – Temporary Bus Assistant – Beginning 8/16/10
 6. Katherine Taylor – Library Assistant – Prairie View Elementary School – Beginning 8/16/10
 7. Angie Rose – Lunchroom Assistant – Rolling Prairie – Effective 8/16/10
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Kelly Koziel – Ass't Volleyball - NPHS
 2. Bobby Whitenack – Head Wrestling Coach – NPHS
 3. Greg Hulbert – Audio/Visual Coach – NPHS
 4. Marlene Nickerson – Assistant Boy/Girls' Cross Country – NPMS
 5. John Arndt - Head Boys Cross Country – HS

Bernie said he was originally concerned about the cost of the new shed at \$34,000. After obtaining information, he can understand the extra cost because it will be insulated and have a metal roof.

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report

Mr. Dermody indicated that enrollment as of today shows 35 students down which includes the 138 transfer students. This has been a very challenging process.

Mr. Dermody said two weeks ago he visited the Activity Center. He is very impressed with the program he saw. He is also impressed with the service to those students and the leadership opportunities they have. There is a very positive influence from Kregg VanMeter.

Last Tuesday, Mr. Dermody attended Tony Bennett's opening meeting. Changes are on the way for education:

- Common Core standards have been adopted that now include about 30 states.
- There is a new student growth model which will be geared towards student growth.
- The past rating system has been changed to "A-F".
- Assessments will be changed
- On-line testing for the highest level of testing. We will be working on this.

Mr. Dermody visited each building this morning. He felt we had a very good day. It was outstanding. There was a problem with the lunch traffic at the high school – freshman students did not know where to go. They will be working on this. He said he appreciates the entire staff – certified and non-certified, administrators and students for what they are doing.

There were no action items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Central Time Coalition

Mr. Dermody received communication from the Central Time Coalition who would like the school corporations to adopt a resolution to consider establishing the State of Indiana on Central Time. Mr. Dermody wanted to see if the board wants to support this. Bernie would like the state to be on one time zone – whatever that zone is. If this lends to that, that would be good. Lakeville did not sign the resolution. Al agrees the he would like the state to go with one time zone. He felt it would save money for the corporation to be on one time zone due to busing, etc. Dale also agrees and would like the state on one time zone no matter if it is Eastern or Central. The board signed the resolution and we will send it in.

- Qualified School Construction Bond

Keith Dennis was advised that the school corporation received the Qualified School Construction Bond from the Department of Education in the amount of \$1,990,000. These monies will be used for the renovation of the cafeteria at the high school and the serving lines at Rolling Prairie Elementary School along with some technology. We put in for this

proposal and received approval. The state had \$183 million to allocate for projects. If you borrow under \$2 million, you are not subject to the petition/remonstrance process with no opportunity for opposition. We will have nine months to issue the bonds. We will be using David Wimmer, Financial Advisor and Ice Miller as Bond Council. Both companies were approved by the board initially. Fanning/Howey will be the architect. They are ready for design/development and looking for bids in January or February. The construction will begin next summer. These bonds are nearly zero interest bonds.

Rich Shail said he is interested in the technology delivery at the high school. He asked if Mark is looking into this. New projectors – is it built in to support the promethean boards. Keith did not have lengthy discussion about this. They wanted to see technology as part of the application and Keith submitted the descriptions. We will be working with Mark to discuss this further. This is only what is left over after the projects. Mark wanted to solve the distribution issues. The wiring needs to be distributed throughout the classrooms. Rich said CPF may have some extra money to get the high school at the same level as the middle school. Rich would like us to look at this and coordinate this effort. Jim said in one of his recent discussions with Mark, they talked about having the same opportunities for the high school students and receive the same benefits as the middle school receives for technology.

Rich said when we do things like this, some people in the community indicated that we pulled a fast one and raised their taxes. Anyone who walks in that building knows that the infrastructure does not support the latest technology. We are not trying to pull anything over on anyone. We desperately need this. Bernie said we have had numerous community meetings to discuss all these issues. This is not the first choice from the committee. It would have been technology. They had opportunities at those meetings to express themselves. Keith said 88% of the committee members supported the projects we recommended here. We tossed the projects they did not want. Bernie said he always supports the committee recommendations. They were sleeping at the meetings if that is what they are saying.

- Response to Tom Dermody's request for School Funding Formula.

Representative Dermody has been selected to serve on the Interim Study Committee on School Funding Formula. He asked for suggestions on how we can improve this formula. Jim Dermody wanted to thank Bernie

Baltes for bringing this suggestion to us. We have submitted a list of items that were adjusted to reduce expenses and also several recommendations to establish the upper and lower range limits for school corporations to receive funding on a per student basis. Bernie said he highly supports the statements submitted to address this issue.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Dale Groves attended the student walk-through at Olive and was happy to see Jim Dermody outside the building shaking hands with parents.
- Bernie will be attending the ISBA conference. If anyone has any concerns they would like addressed, please let him know.
- Bernie said Jim Dermody was also at Rolling Prairie. People were impressed to see the superintendent there.

The next regular board meeting will be September 13, 2010.