

BOARD NOTES

September 13, 2010

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, September 13, 2010 with all Board members present. Jim Dermody was also present.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Mr. Dermody recognized students – John Kampf and Austin Mrozinski, along with Corey Neuenswander, Amy Mullen, LaPorte County Sheriff's Dept. – Mike Mollenhauer and Kankakee Fire Dept. - Kevin Wheatbrook and Tom Thode for their heroism in the recent incident of a student in the swimming pool at New Prairie High School who experienced distress.
- Julie Jerzak and members of the FBLA provided an overview of their activities during the 2009-2010 school year which included National Competition as well as the following activities:
 - Freshman Orientation
 - Blood Drive
 - Flower Sales – Valentine's Day
 - March of Dimes
 - Go Green Efforts
 - State Leadership – 3 students elected to office
 - National Leadership Conference

Bernie Baltes commended the students and organization for their efforts. This type of initiative will thrive in the workforce.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes – August 16, 2010
 - Financial Reports

- Claims
- Payroll
- Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Shane Betzer – Language Arts – NPMS – Resignation effective September 7, 2010
- Employment/Recall/Reassignment
 1. Gabriela Post – Title I – Rolling Prairie Elementary – Recall from RIF – effective August 19, 2010
 2. Laura Palman – Temporary Kindergarten Teacher – Olive Elementary – 2010-2011 school year – Recall from RIF – effective August 19, 2010
 3. Jemiah Feece – Kindergarten Teacher – Olive Elementary – Reassignment effective August 19, 2010
 4. Jessica Feathers – Grade 1 Teacher – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Reassignment effective August 19, 2010
 5. Sara Serry – Kindergarten Teacher – Rolling Prairie Elementary School – Reassignment effective August 19, 2010
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Mark McBride – 7th Grade Boys Basketball
 2. Jon Schroeder – 7th Grade Volleyball
 3. Thom Smith – Head Girls Cross Country – NPHS
 4. Matt Flagg – Assistant Baseball Coach – NPHS
 5. Jim Schwingendorf – Assistant Boys Track Coach – NPHS
 6. Melissa Kuczmanski – RTI Team Member – ¼ - Rolling Prairie
 7. Melanie Cloonan – RTI Team Member – ¼ - Rolling Prairie
 8. Amy Surma – RTI Team Member – ¼ - Rolling Prairie
 9. Gabriela Post – RTI Team Member – ¼ - Rolling Prairie
 10. Lisa Smiertelny – RTI Co-Chair – Rolling Prairie
 11. Krissy Surma – RTI Co-Chair – Rolling Prairie
 12. Jennifer Smith – Spell Bowl – Middle School

NON-CERTIFIED

- Resignations/Leaves
 1. Tara Lindborg – Food Service – Middle School – Resignation effective August 2, 2010
 2. Barb Truhn – Food Service – Middle School – Leave of Absence August 16, 2010 – September 13, 2010
 3. Mary Feller – Instructional Assistant – Rolling Prairie – Resignation effective August 23, 2010
 4. Candace Swihart – Instructional Assistant – Prairie View – Resignation effective August 25, 2010
 5. Michelle Banks – Lunchroom Assistant – Middle School – Resignation effective August 30, 2010
- Employment/Transfer/Reassignment
 1. Shannon Wilkins – ESL Assistant – Prairie View Elementary – 15 hrs. per week – effective immediately
 2. Catherine Foreman – Food Service – Transfer from high school to middle school food service – 6 hrs. per day – effective August 16, 2010
 3. Angie Rose – Lunchroom Assistant – Transfer from Lunchroom Assistant at Rolling Prairie to Cook – High School – 5 hours/day effective August 24, 2010
 4. Suzanne King – Instructional Assistant – Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective immediately
 5. Kelly Koziel – Instructional Assistant – Prairie View Elementary School effective immediately
 6. Julie Neuhold – Instructional Assistant – Prairie View Elementary School effective immediately

7. Angela Keehn – Lunchroom Assistant (additional assignment) – Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective immediately
 8. Donna Yeaman – Instructional Assistant – Prairie View Elementary School – effective immediately
 9. Katherine Marciniak – Instructional Assistant – Prairie View Elementary School effective immediately
 10. Susan Miles – Health Assistant – Olive Elementary School – effective immediately
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Angela Pallo – Co-Cheerleading Coach – Middle School
 2. Elizabeth Roush – Co-Cheerleading Coach – Middle School
 3. Shaun Prestin – Assistant 6th Grade Volleyball Coach
 4. Brent Campos – Head 6th Grade Volleyball Coach
 5. Sara Adkins – Co-Boys/Girls Swimming Coach – Middle School
 6. Mike Bilinski – Head Softball
 7. Staci Mrozinski – Freshman Volleyball

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Mr. Dermody recognized the High Ability Program committee members and facilitator, Casey Gumm for all the work they do on this program.
 - Mr. Dermody advised that the largest and best Cross Country Invitational will be held on September 18th. We anticipate over 100 schools with about 2,000 athletes. Mr. Dermody would like to recognize everyone involved in this event – in particular, Brian Williamson, Kathy Mitchell, Thom Smith, John Arndt and Natalie Kraus, along with countless other people. Bernie said this is the largest event in the state.
 - Mr. Dermody advised that the elementary and middle schools have begun or will soon begin MClass and Acuity testing. These results provide data for students and staff for baseline student performance. Sherry Bailey does a lot of work organizing this testing.

- Chinese Exchange Program – Jim Holifield

Mr. Dermody said Jim Holifield has done a tremendous amount of work on this project and many staff and community members have responded to this. Jim Holifield said he received an e-mail in July indicating the adults and students would be arriving on September 18th. Jim reviewed the calendar of events that will take place during the two weeks they are here. We have 13 host families accommodating the students and adults.

Dale Groves asked what things Jim has experienced about their culture. Jim said they have learned the English language since third grade, but they are sometimes reluctant to talk to you because they assume it is not good enough. They are a very generous and happy people. Dale wanted to thank Mr. Holifield for doing this. This is something you will not get out of a textbook. It is a great hands on experience.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the 2011 Budget and Resolution of Appropriations and Tax Rates.
- The Board approved the adoption of the Capital Projects Plan and Resolution for 2011-2012-2013.
- The Board approved the adoption of the Transportation Bus Replacement Plan and Resolution for 2011.
- The Board approved the Resolution of Tax Neutrality for the School Pension Debt Fund.
- The Board adopted the Resolution to Transfer Interest Earned to the General Fund.
- The Board approved the revised substitute pay schedule. The revision included the increase to \$7.25 for Food Service substitutes to be in compliance with the Minimum Wage guidelines. We also increased the rate for substitute custodians to \$10.00 per hour. Currently, sub custodians are contracted through Performance Plus. According to State Board of Accounts, this type of contracted services must be paid through the General Fund rather than Capital Projects Fund. We paid the contracted services \$16.00 per hour for the subs. We can now hire our own subs at a rate of \$10.00 per hour in an effort to reduced further costs in the General Fund.

- The Board accepted the donation for a clothes dryer for Prairie View Elementary School from John and Kathy Taylor.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Bernie heard a recent news commentary that the graduation rate for low income male students is 47%. New York has a rate of 25% and New Jersey has a rate of 67%. They believe it is because New Jersey focuses on early stages of education and pre-school. Bernie stated that he recently listened to a news commentary that the discontinuation of Home Economics, Industrial Technology, etc. has greatly contributed to the overall decline of the Detroit Public School system. This system had enjoyed a strong reputation 25-30 years ago.
- Bernie recently visited a school in Iowa that is not as old as New Prairie High School. He said when he walked into the school, it was run down. The Superintendent's Office is in the high school. They have over 1,000 students in the district and they receive about \$6,000 per student. He said about 10% of the high school students are involved in FFA. They get extra funding for those students.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 18th.