

BOARD NOTES
September 16, 2008

The regular meeting of the school board was held on Monday, September 15th at the Middle School with all board members present.

Rich Shail reviewed the guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

The board adopted the agenda as presented.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

Tammy Moore and Jeff Meinhard gave a presentation on the Promethean boards. They demonstrated how they use the boards to interact with their lesson plans and student participation.

Bernie said from a person who drug his feet regarding technology, he wants to commend Rich Shail for spearheading the technology for the building. Rich said what a benefit this is for our students.

CONSENT ITEMS

- The board approved the Consent Items as follows:
 - Minutes - August 25, 2008
 - Financial Reports
 - Claims
 - Payroll
 - Personnel as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Jessica Feathers - 4th Grade - Prairie View - Leave of absence beginning December 5, 2008 through April 10, 2009.

- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Chris Gesse - Co-PL221 Sponsor - Prairie View
 2. JoAnn Gappa - Co-Spell Bowl Coach - Rolling Prairie
 3. Jennifer Smith - Spell Bowl - Middle School
 4. Nicole Bowen - Co-6th Grade Volleyball
 5. Lisa Smiertelny - Co-PL221 Sponsor - Rolling Prairie
 6. Amy Myers - Co-PL221 Sponsor - Rolling Prairie
 7. Vicki Mosson - Co-Spell Bowl Coach - Rolling Prairie
 8. Tim Scott - Freshman Boys Basketball
 9. Matt Presley - Assistant Boys Basketball - NPHS
 10. Kelly Jarka - Co-Science Fair Sponsor - Rolling Prairie
 11. Susan Koziel - Math Bowl - Prairie View

NON-CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations
 1. Julie Olney - Bus Driver - Leave of absence beginning September 24, 2008 and continuing for approximately six weeks
- Employment/Transfers
 1. Tim West - Lunchroom Assistant - Middle School
 2. Cammy Pittman - Cook - Prairie View Elementary School
 3. Valerie Stankewicz - Cashier - Rolling Prairie Elementary
 4. Deb Keldsen - Lunchroom Assistant - Olive Elementary
 5. Connie Noel - Transfer from Cook to Cashier - Olive Elementary
 6. Christy Ebersole - Transfer from Cook to Manager - Prairie View
 7. Cassandra Koselke - Transfer from Ass't Manager - MS to Manager - MS
 8. Denise Tuholski - Transfer from Lunchroom Assistant to Cook - MS

9. Barb Truhn - Transfer from Cook - R.P. to Cook - MS
 10. Joyce Collins - Transfer from Ass't Mgr. - HS to Floater Manager - Corp.
 11. Catherine Foreman - Transfer from R.P. Cashier to Cook - H.S.
 12. Lawrence Merkner - Temporary ESL Assistant - Rolling Prairie
 13. Carole Winnicki - Primetime Assistant (Kdg.) - Olive Elementary
 14. Andrea Williamson - Primetime Assistant (Kdg.) - Olive Elementary
 15. Char Herbst - Transfer from Lunchroom Ass't to Cook - Rolling Prairie
- Employment - Extra-Curricular
 1. Marlene Nickerson - 2nd Cross County Coach - MS
 2. Holly Harenza - Co-6th Grade Volleyball Coach
 3. Charlie Schmidt - 5th Grade Boys Basketball - Prairie View
 4. Janice Jasinski - Second 5th Grade Volleyball - Olive

REPORTS

- Superintendent's Report
 - Board received brochures from Ruth Trujillo outlining her programs at the middle school and Freshman Academy.
 - Patty Sardeson was awarded the Challenger Learning Grant in the amount of \$200.
 - Dr. Bender received a copy of an e-mail from Amy Myers thanking the bus driver of one of her autistic students. On the first day of school, the driver (Mrs. Hunt) personally took the time to walk the child to his classroom to assure he made it there okay. Dr. Bender said sometimes we forget what our support people do and this is one good example. We are very blessed to have those individuals.

- Dr. Bender advised that the donation from the Banzhaf family has been invested with the Unity Foundation in the amount of \$158,855.66 as a Memorial Scholarship. This will be available to any student who pursues some type of further instruction past high school. This would include any type of technical school. The interest earned from this investment is \$3,052.21 which is the spendable portion that we will have available for the first scholarship round.
- Dr. Bender shared the recent SAT scores for New Prairie. He said we fell below the state average in both reading and math. We have a lot of work to do at the high school to get our students prepared as they go on to post secondary schools. We are working on plans to correct this. Dr. Bender said this is unacceptable for our school to fall below the state average.
- Dr. Bender received a communication from the state listing eight schools who received the Blue Ribbon Award. He said New Prairie did not make that list, but we should be looking down the road to become a Blue Ribbon School.
- Dr. Bender also advised that the South Bend Tribune listed the National Merit semi-finalist list. New Prairie did not make that list either. We should have someone representing us every year. We recognize these things are out there and these are attainable goals.
- Brian Williamson prepared a list of guidelines to be followed at football games. Students should be aware of what they need to follow during a football game. LuAnn feels we should post these guidelines at the gates of ballgames so everyone is aware of the rules.
- Dr. Bender shared information to the board regarding the recent changes in transfer tuition from the state. It is not an open enrollment as we originally thought. The General Fund will be funded by the state. Originally the parents paid the tuition. When the state takes over the general fund, they will handle the formula funding for the tuition. There will probably be very little additional costs from the local level but we do not know that amount.
- We received a report from the Indiana Schools Boards Association on outstanding school board members and schools. LuAnn Schwingendorf will be recognized as an outstanding board member for 2008 at the fall conference. New Prairie was also recognized as an outstanding board for 2008.

- The board received a copy of the Tobacco and Alcohol surveys taken by our students.

ACTION

- The board approved the 2009 budget which included one change made on the CPF for future projects for land purchases within the school boundaries.
- The board approved the Resolution of Tax Neutrality for the School Pension Debt Fund
- The board approved the CPF Plan and Resolution for 2009-2010-2011. Dr. Bender said this is where you will see the change in the future projects. Dr. Bender said he will be moving the CPF process to what he feels it should be used for, which is capital projects. He said you cannot make small purchases when we are trying to build for future projects. Bernie said the board is really only approving the 2009 CPF. Approving 2010 and 2011 are only a formality and will be addressed the subsequent years.
- The board approved the Resolution to Transfer Interest Earned to the General Fund.
- The board approved the Resolution to Adopt the Transportation Bus Replacement Plan.
- The board approved the New Facility Appeal Petition. Dr. Bender said last year when we went to the DLGF, we received \$287,000. There is \$62,000 remaining that we will appeal to the DLGF.
- The board accepted the donation from the New Carlisle Lions Club to the High School Baseball Team in the amount of \$400 and \$600 to the High School Girls Basketball Team.
- The board approved the 403(b) Plan with Great American Company. Keith Dennis said this company will allow as many vendors to participate who sign the document. As soon as all of our current vendors have signed the document, we will be ready to institute. Dr. Bender said Keith Dennis has spent a lot of time trying to include all the vendors our employees use. He has done a great job. The document was taken before Meet and Discuss and approved by the NPCTA.

- The board approved the Motorcycle Policy Addendum to the High School Handbook as presented. Dr. Bender said he had a high school student come to him to discuss this possibility. Dr. Bender said he did all the right things to get this to happen. He was very impressed with the way the student conducted himself. Dr. Bender took the request back to the high school and they developed the policy. The student was also involved in the development of the policy.

Al Williamson said one of the violations addresses the loss of driving privileges. Does this mean all driving privileges or just the motorcycle? Dr. Bender feels it was meant for all vehicles, but he will double check with the high school.

- The board voted to discontinue the enrollment of new transfer tuition students for the second semester of the 2008-2009 school year. Those students currently enrolled as transfer tuition will still be able to continue. Dr. Bender said because we do not know how the State will handle this new rule, we want more information before we start enrolling new students that we will not receive funding for.

Shelly asked if other schools are following this procedure. Dr. Bender said some of the small schools like South Central and Knox are doing this. Some schools are not allowing any transfers. Al asked if those students currently enrolled will pay the tuition for the remainder of the year. Dr. Bender said yes - most are on a payment plan for the entire year. We will refund monies once the state lets us know, but we don't know what that amount may be.

Bernie asked if that will continue to be a problem in the future. If a student enrolls in the second semester, we will not receive the ADM. Phil said we may want to look at that to see how we handle this. Phil said if this happens, he can see issues regarding residency which that has not changed. This ruling is still on the legislative table. It will demand our attention.

Bernie asked if there is any possibility they will assess fees for facility usage? Phil said this is one of the problems that have not been addressed. We should talk to our legislators at our November meeting.

- The board approved the use of credit cards for textbook fee payments. The board recently contracted with a company to collect past-due fees. Once this process starts sometime in November, you may get calls regarding these payments. We will have a one-month grace period to pay past-due fees. Dr. Bender said he feels the time has come to offer the service of credit cards for our parents. We may also be able to collect the past-due fees if the credit card procedure is in place.

A list was prepared of unpaid textbook fees for the past five years which totals over \$307,000. The list also contains names of students who have graduated. We are not sure how successful we will be at collecting those fees. We will keep the board apprised. The board will have the opportunity to decide if they want to sue if the agency is unsuccessful in collecting the fees.

Dr. Bender said we have new textbook adoption this year that will cost well over \$1/4 million. We are hoping in the near future to offer other services to parents like on-line payments and paying for lunches. Wells Fargo provided this service for a nominal fee. Bernie asked if we could pass this on to the parents. Phil said after the grace period, we could implement the fee. Keith said the lease is \$34 per month and the processing is about 2%. We can charge a nominal fee of \$2 - \$3.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- The following policies were introduced for first reading: #1200, #1214, #1231, #3231, #3430.01, #4430.01, # 6150, #6520, #8310 and #9800. It was the recommendation of Bill Kaminski that we remove board policy #6150, which addresses transfer tuition. The board removed that policy at this time.

Bernie questioned policy #3231 which deals with research and publishing. Bernie asked if a staff member writes a book and it is sold to a publishing company and they get a fee, are they required to refund to the corporation. Bill Kaminski said yes because they are allowed to use what skills they gained, so the corporation would be allowed to collect the royalties. Bernie said that does not seem fair if they do it on their own outside the corporation. Bill said that is a very common practice of the organization collecting the royalties.. He will bring back more information on this. This is very common at the college level.

Policy #3430/4430.1 - Family Medical Act - Bernie said the policy states an individual can take up to one year unpaid leave for maternity. He asked if both couples are employed, are they both eligible for that time off? Bill said yes - that is based on the federal guidelines for FMLA.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Shelly would like to thank everyone for the work they put in for the dedication tonight. It was very nice. There was good community involvement.

- Al Williamson said the same thing. He would also like to thank Dr. Bender for including Mr. Wrightson in the dedication.
- Bernie wanted to compliment the maintenance personnel on how well they keep all of our schools. You can walk into the elementary schools and they look the same way they did when it was first opened.
- Bernie received a copy of the items he will be voting on at the ISBA conference. If anyone has any input, please forward them to the Central Office prior to the conference.
- LuAnn also wanted to thank everyone. There were a lot of good comments from people. They said it was a long-time coming, but it was worth the wait.
- Rich Shail said he received an interesting comment from a patron tonight. He said “wow, what a building.” But he said one thing is missing. The patron wanted to know what his payback will be for his money. What are the schools’ goals and objectives to be used for these students for this building? What advances are made? What is the payback? Rich said he referred him to our mission and vision statement. He wanted to see the numbers of how our students will do. He wants to see what his payback will be for his tax dollars.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Office.