

BOARD NOTES
November 27, 2017

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, November 27, 2017 with Rich Shail, Al Williamson, Dale Groves, Bill Romstadt and Phil King present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was also present

Rich Shail, Board President, reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

There was a motion by Groves to adopt the agenda, seconded by Williamson and approved 5-0.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

Dr. White introduced Janet Scott, Principal, New Prairie Middle School along with Jeremy Heinold, Asst. Principal at NPMS, who will give a presentation on the new math program this year called Ready Math. Mrs. Scott briefly explained the new Ready Math program that has been positively received by students. The video presentation highlighted the math teachers at the middle school explaining the many positive changes exhibited by their students' completing math problems. Teachers commented that this new math has all students talking and discussing more. It is drawing the quiet students into math conversation and keeping them actively involved. Student collaboration is a huge change as students are constantly discussing and exploring math. Mrs. Scott said students really like the math because they get to talk through the math problems. Students are coming up with different ways of solving problems by thinking deeply about the problems and coming up with the correct answers. Mrs. Scott stated the biggest issue with this new math program is time. As it is right now, there is not enough time to do this program the right way. Teachers have stated that they need more time. Mrs. Scott and Mr. Heinold started looking at new schedule ideas to give more time for math. Mrs. Scott introduced a draft of a new schedule that would allow 70 minutes every day for *all* Core classes.

Bill Romstadt likes the idea that math would receive more time as he is concerned that all three steps of math are covered: the learning, the understanding of what is learned, and the application of math.

Dale Groves stated he has not seen a lot of math homework with his kids. Is this because of the new math program? Mrs. Scott replied yes, because it is a new way of doing math, minimal work is sent home. Primarily math work is done in class to make sure students understand how to solve their problems.

Dr. White appreciates the amount of time it took to implement the new Ready Math program. He also stated he appreciates the time Mrs. Scott and Mr. Heinold put into the possible new schedule for next year. Thank you to Mr. Heinold for the professional quality video he put together highlighting the new Ready Math program. Teachers have done a great job embracing the new math curriculum and it is appreciated.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items:

- (A) Minutes – October 30, 2017 and November 7, 2017
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Olivia Cano – Resignation as Spanish Teacher at NPHS as of 12/1/2017
 2. Laura Schreiber – FMLA Leave as 2nd Grade Teacher at Olive Elementary beginning 2/26/2018 through approximately 4/20/3018
 3. Kristina DeMeyer – FMLA Leave as Math Coach at Rolling Prairie Elementary and Prairie View Elementary beginning approximately 3/22/2018 through 6/8/2018
 4. Jim Miko – Medical Leave as Social Studies Teacher at NPHS beginning 10/24/2017 through 12/31/2017
 5. Judy Bubanovich – Intermittent FMLA Leave as 7th Grade LA Teacher at NPMS beginning 10/25/2017 through 12/31/2017
- Employment
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Derrick DeShone – NPMS Lunch Supervisor beginning 11/20/2017
- Adjustments
 1. Frank Hobart to receive December 8th a \$2,000 stipend for completion of the 21st Century Robotics K-5 program and an additional \$2,000 stipend for the completion of the 21st Century Robotics 6-8 program.
 2. 2016-17 TAG Stipends in the same amounts as awarded to highly effective and effective teachers will be paid from the general fund to:
 - Becky Bartlett
 - Rhonda Myers
 - Tara Bush
 - Janet Scott
 - Carrie Cannon
 - Jim Holifield
 - Melissa Kuczmanski
 - Allison Middlebrook
 - Tim Flanagan
 - Angela Ruby
 - Heidi Schellinger
 - Christine Hunter
 - Jennifer Sass
 - Justin Holmquest

CLASSIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Karyl Litke – Resignation as Food Service Aide at NPMS 10/13/2017
 2. Sarah Tinkel – Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary Instructional Assistant as of 12/1/2017
 3. Adrienne Jongkind – Resignation as Prairie View Elementary Instructional Assistant as of 12/6/2017
- Employment
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Alan King – Co-Assistant Wrestling Coach at NPHS for the 2017-2018 school year
 2. Eric Brown - Co-Assistant Wrestling Coach at NPHS for the 2017-2018 school year

3. Tyler Radtke – Assistant Football Coach at NPHS for the 2017-18 school year
4. Giovanni Stanisci - Assistant Football Coach at NPHS for the 2017-18 school year

- Adjustments

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. White began his report with great news that NPUSC received the LaPorte Healthcare Foundation “Healthy from the Start Healthy Living” Grant totaling \$78,267.72 to use November 1, 2017 through November 1, 2018. Dr. White introduced Ashley Robbins, NPUSC’s Enrichment Coordinator who wrote the grant, to give a brief report on how this grant will be used.

Ashley explained that the primary focus for the use of the grant is Farm to Table principles. She described the signature event will be “Weekend on the Farm” celebrating New Prairie’s 50th Anniversary. This event includes a movie night, Kids Cook Off, a Farmers Market featuring local produce, a petting zoo, and a large community style outdoor dinner. Ashley went on to explain the programming highlights that includes family nutrition and cooking programs in partnership with Purdue and the Purdue 4H Extension Office, group fitness classes, reinstating the DARE Program partnering with the LaPorte County Police Department, as well as offering guest speakers for each school focused on mental health. She also announced the support through the grant for the HOSA and FFA programs to promote healthy living at all grade levels along with support for summer camps centered on nutrition and fitness.

Dale Groves thanked Ashley and mentioned that this program through the grant reminded him of Bernie Baltus which Ashley responded that she plans to contact Bernie.

Dr. White would like to plan a work-session to discuss the district’s history in regard to the anniversary in collaboration with Ashley’s events. The Board agreed.

- Dr. White welcomed Nic Allen and Tim Short from Performance Services to the meeting to give their update on the project. Tim Short reported that the exterior work is wrapping up based on weather. Retention Basin excavation should be completed by the end of the week. Storm lines in conjunction with the basin should be completed within 2 weeks. Reith Riley will be ending their work soon on the exterior work and the new building pad soon. The new parking lot has been completed with lighting going up soon. The concrete contractor’s excavator will be excavating for foundations this week for the concrete work and footings. Interior of the building: demolition at the east end is pretty far along and about done. Ceilings and floors in classrooms and hallways are gone and locker bays are gone. West end of building is also wrapping up demolition. Electrical rough in is underway and progressing to put things back together. Dr. White questioned when west wing classrooms will be ready for students? Tim Short responded that the west end classrooms should be ready the first week of February with the east end classrooms being ready the middle of March.

Dr. White stated he has had a lot of positive comments on the rerouting of the buses on the new road and the new parking lot on the north side of the high school disconnecting the buses from the parent traffic. Bruce Lasley, Transportation Director, stated that it has worked out to be an excellent situation.

- Dr. White mentioned that the Indiana Department of Education Teacher Appreciation Grant money has been deposited and will be disbursed to eligible highly effective and effective

teachers on December 8th. He will send out an email to let the teachers know how much they will be receiving by the end of the week.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted Donations as follows:
- The Board of Directors of the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte, Inc. has awarded NPUSC with the “Healthy from the Start Healthy Living” Grant for \$78,267
 - Mr. & Mrs. Gyan and Sheila Joshi donated copies of the Award Winning book “Finders Keepers” to the NPUSC Elementary School Libraries
 - NPHS Robotics Team received donations of:
 - \$250 from Active Health and Wellness Center in South Bend
 - Safety glasses and earplugs from O-Tech of Rolling Prairie
 - Feed the Children donated to NPUSC 23 lbs. of school supplies and 26 lbs. of new childrens books valued at \$456.57
- (B) The Board approved Overnight Field Trip Requests:
- New Prairie High School HOSA Team to the State Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, IN, April 9 – 11, 2018
 - New Prairie High School HOSA Team to the International Leadership Conference in Dallas, TX, (if qualified) June 26 – July 1, 2018
 - New Prairie High School Wrestling Team to Lafayette Jefferson High School, Lafayette, IN, December 28 – 29, 2017
 - New Prairie High School Wrestling Team to the Fort Wayne Coliseum for IHSWCA Competition December 22 – 23, 2017
 - New Prairie High School and Middle School Dance Teams to Greencastle, IN, for State Competition March 9 – 10, 2018
- (C) The Board approved the Go Solutions Group, Inc. Indiana Service Agreement for 2018
- (D) The Board approved Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements for:
- Al Williamson
 - Dale Groves
 - Amy Bradburn
- (E) The Board approved Unleaded and Bio-Diesel Fuel Bid Renewal for 2017-2018 School Year
- (F) The Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement between New Prairie High School and Therapy Works
- (G) The Board approved the South LaPorte County Special Education Cooperative Resolution regarding the Teacher Appreciation Grant
- (H) The Board approved the MOU between New Prairie United School Corporation Nutrition Services and New Prairie United School Corporation Afterschool Programs
- (I) The Board approved the MOU between New Prairie United School Corporation Afterschool Programs and the New Prairie United Administration

DISCUSSION

Dr. White stated that he has reviewed the updated Board Policy 2623.01 based on NEOLA’s reading of Chapter 10 of the IDOE’s Program regarding ISTEP administration. Dr. White said that he and Mrs. Hite together read through the policy and agree that there is more there than the previous policy.

There will be more discussion prior to the next Board meeting before the second reading and adoption. The Board is open to hearing more about this before adoption.

BOARD COMMENTS

Dale Groves stated that he felt the parade in New Carlisle was wonderful. Many New Prairie Students were involved and he wants to let them know how proud he is of them.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Groves, the meeting was adjourned.