

BOARD NOTES  
August 24, 2020

The regular meeting of the School Board was held Monday, August 24, 2020, at NPUSC Central Office Board Room with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Al Williamson, Mr. Dale Groves, Mr. Rich Shail and Mr. Jason DeMeyer present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was also present.

Mr. Phil King, Board President, reviewed guidelines for speaking on agenda items.

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

On a motion by Mr. Shail, seconded by Mr. DeMeyer, the regular meeting was suspended to hold the annual Budget Hearing. The motion was approved 5-0.

### **BUDGET HEARING**

Jim Holifield, Director of Finance, explained the Budget Timeline to the Board then presented the proposed 2021 Budget Appropriations in a PowerPoint as follows:

- Educational Fund - \$18,257,144
- Debt Service - \$5,864,515
- Referendum Debt Service \$1,758,750
- Operations Fund \$8,960,403
- Rainy Day - \$1,000,000

The Board members thanked Mr. Holifield for his straight forward, easily understood Budget presentation. There were no questions from the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Groves, seconded by Mr. Williamson the Budget Hearing ended and the regular meeting was reconvened. The motion was approved 5-0.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – July 27, 2020, August 10, 2020
- (B) Claims
- (C) Payroll
- (D) Financial Reports
- (E) Personnel Report:

### **CERTIFIED**

#### ▪ **Leaves/Resignations/Retirements**

1. Jennifer Hite – FMLA Intermittent Leave as NPMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher beginning 8/7/2020 through 5/28/2021
2. Thom Smith - FMLA Intermittent Leave as NPHS Health/PE Teacher beginning 8/7/2020 through 5/28/2021
3. Missy Kuczmanski - FMLA Intermittent Leave as RPES Counselor beginning 8/7/2020 through 12/31/2020
4. Mark Meyer - FMLA Intermittent Leave as NPHS Math Teacher beginning 8/7/2020 through 5/28/2021
5. Kelle Cartwright – FMLA Intermittent Leave as NPMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade LA Teacher beginning 8/7/2020 through 5/28/2021

6. Julie Beakas – FMLA Leave as NPHS FACS/Health/Science Teacher beginning 2/27/2021 through 5/29/2021
- **Employment**
  - **Employment – Extra-Curricular**
    1. Danielle Blosser – NPMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Asst. Coach beginning 2020-2021 school year
    2. Jim Matz – NPHS Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2020-2021 school year
  - **Adjustments**
    1. Ben Bachmann to receive 5 additional contract days for the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID Back to School Planning.

## **CLASSIFIED**

- **Leaves/Resignations/Retirements**
  1. Jessica Strathman – Resignation as Nutritional Services Worker as of 8/10/2020
  2. Karen Combs - Resignation as Nutritional Services Worker as of 8/9/2020
  3. Lanette Ness – FMLA Leave as NPMS Librarian beginning 8/13/2020 through 11/6/2020
  4. Josie Valdez – Resignation as Instruction Assistant at PVES as of 7/11/2020
  5. Meredith Igaz – Intermittent FMLA Leave as NPHS Secretary beginning 8/13/2020 to 12/31/2020
- **Employment**
  1. Alexander Zelasko – RPES Custodian beginning 8/7/2020
- **Employment – Extra-Curricular**
  1. Annalise Warnock – NPMS 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2020-2021 school year pending criminal background check results
- **Adjustments**
  1. Pam Boonstra – Transfer of position from Nutritional Services Worker to Nutritional Services Crew Leader at Olive Elementary School.
  2. Kathy Jack – Transfer of position from Nutritional Services Floater to Nutritional Services Crew Leader at Prairie View Elementary School.
  3. Denice Tuholski - Transfer of position from Nutritional Services Worker to Nutritional Services Crew Leader at New Prairie Middle School

## **REPORTS**

- Dr. White stated that school started on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 50% attendance with positive feedback so far from parents, administrators and teachers. Dr. White added that to this date, there have been very few students sent home. Teachers have advocated for continuing the 50% attendance past Labor Day. There have been concerns by community and staff over 100% attendance. Dr. White recommended continuing the 50% attendance through the month of September or until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. White wished to congratulate all the fall sports teams that have been able to participate. It has been a great start for our student athletes. Dr. White said he has received positive feedback from parents who have been thankful that their students have had the chance to play.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- (A) The Board accepted Donations:
- Olive Elementary School received the following donations:
    - 300 ear savers for student masks from Mark Straup
    - 2 bags of school supplies from Anne James
    - \$2,486.58 from Olive Elementary PTO for Kindergarten yoga mats, desk trays, supply holders and Math and ELA tool kits
  - NPUSC received a donation of 2 Heston Supper Club gift cards valued at \$50 each for the two parent volunteers that helped with meal distribution every week
- (B) The Board approved the Superintendent's Contract

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- (A) Follow-up Return to School Plan
- Mr. Groves began by asking if we have had the need for subs since the start of school. Dr. Cannon responded that so far we have seen considerably less personal and sick days used so need is less than normal. We do still have an issue with finding certified subs for teachers that are out for longer periods of time.
  - Mr. Groves then stated that he had the chance to speak with some teachers, staff members and some high school students about how things are going with students following the rules regarding masks, social distancing and handwashing. Responses were that everyone is following the rules for the most part.
  - Mr. Shail stated that this year definitely has been a learning experience for everyone. Happily he hears that everything is going well so far.
  - Mr. Williamson stated that he recommends 50% attendance until the end of Q1 then reevaluate. Dr. White agreed.
  - Mr. DeMeyer agreed to wait until the end of Q1 as he would not like to see us push too quickly. Everyone he has talked with is happy with how the 50% is working.
  - Mr. King agrees that 50% is working well and feels we are doing it the right way. We will reevaluate after the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks.
  - Dr. White added that after his meeting with teachers today, he feels they will be relieved that we will be staying with the 50% until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks. Dr. White said that he will communicate this plan with everyone by the end of this week.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Mr. Groves thanked everyone involved for starting the school year successfully.
- Mr. Williamson thanked Dr. White and Dr. Cannon, their staff, administrators, teachers and everyone else involved for handling so well the start of school and all the situations that have come up. He went on that they are always on top of everything that is happening and communicating constantly with everyone. Mr. Williamson stated that he appreciates how they put students first.
- Dr. White added that the administrators are consistent with implementation and gives them credit along with Dr. Cannon who is on top of all the important details.
- Mr. DeMeyer is very impressed with the opening of the school year. He has heard nothing but positive comments across the board. He stated he is appreciative and grateful to everyone involved.

- Mr. Shail commented that it was good see people at the football game this past weekend. He was very impressed with the new scoreboard. It was fun to see the kids, even though it wasn't a full student section, they gave it their all. Mr. Shail is impressed by the girls' golf team this year coached by Dr. Bruce Watson. They are doing extremely well as are all our fall sports.
- Mr. King thanked Mr. Holifield for his Budget report given this evening.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Shail made the motion to adjourn the meeting.