

BOARD NOTES

April 26, 2021

The regular meeting of the School Board was held Monday, April 26, 2021, at Rolling Prairie Elementary School Gymnasium with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Dale Groves, Mr. Jason DeMeyer and Mrs. Jill Smith present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was also present. Mr. Al Williamson was absent.

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 Mrs. Smith and approved 4-0-1.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

(A) Rolling Prairie Elementary School Presentation

- Ms. Becky Bartlett, Rolling Prairie Elementary Principal and Mrs. Tia Kolasa, Social Service Worker, presented a PowerPoint highlighting the positive results in educating students throughout the COVID Pandemic.
- Ms. Bartlett described some positives due to COVID such as increased school to home communication, technical intelligence, guardian to educator partnerships, flexibility and creativity. She explained some common challenges found were student attendance, work completion and generating sound academic data.
- Mrs. Kolasa explained some of the priorities dealing with social/emotional issues kids were facing during the pandemic and the team interventions offered. She found that the teachers have had a good understanding of students and their needs. Mrs. Kolasa stated how thankful they are for the many resources available to help students in need.
- Ms. Bartlett wrapped up her presentation with her goals moving forward.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the following Consent Items:

- (A) Minutes – March 22, 2021 & April 12, 2021
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Margaret Stepniewski – Retirement as Olive Twp Elementary School 1st Grade Teacher effective 5/28/2021
 2. Shawn Sterling – Resignation as NPMS 7th Grade Science Teacher effective 5/29/2021
 3. Aimee Litka – ECA Resignation as NPHS 9th Grade Volleyball Coach effective 4/15/2021
 4. Martin Mosson – ECA Resignation as NPMS Athletic/Event Coordinator effective 5/28/2021
- Employment
- Employment – 2021 Summer School & Camp Staff
 1. Cheryl Karczewski – Camp Eberhart Staff
 2. Kara Mamazza – Camp Eberhart Staff
 3. Sarah Huff – 2021 Summer ELL Enrichment Elementary Co-Teacher
 4. Gabriella Post – 2021 Summer ELL Enrichment Elementary Co-Teacher
 5. Gary Hixenbaugh – 2021 Summer MS Math Remediation Instructor
 6. Kate VanPelt – 2021 Summer MS Math Remediation Instructor

7. Kelle Cartwright – 2021 Summer MS ELA Remediation Instructor
 8. Shannon McBride – 2021 Summer MS ELA Remediation Instructor
 9. Sue Kozumplik – 2021 Summer MS ELA Remediation Instructor
 10. Kendell Fowler – 2021 Summer MS Band Instructor
 11. Frank Hobart – 2021 Summer HS ELA Remediation Instructor
 12. Jessica Sinka - 2021 Summer HS ELA Remediation Instructor
 13. Angela Smith – 2021 Summer HS Biology Remediation Instructor
 14. Mark Schellinger – 2021 Summer HS PE Instructor
 15. Jim Matz – 2021 Summer HS Math Remediation Instructor
 16. Adam Branch – 2021 Summer HS Math Remediation Instructor
 17. Robyn Kubsch – 2021 Summer HS Health Remediation Instructor pending enrollment
 18. Patrick Teykl – 2021 Summer HS Band Instructor
 19. Heidi Schellinger – 2021 Summer Plato Instructor
- Employment – Summer 2021 Driver's Education
 1. Mark McBride – Driver's Education Director/Instructor
 2. Martin Mosson – Driver's Education Instructor
 - Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Jim Schwingendorf – 5th Grade Wrestling Co-Coach at Olive Twp. Elementary School beginning school year 2020-2021
 2. Kendell Fowler – NPHS Percussion Instructor beginning 2020-2021 school year
 - Adjustments
 1. The following counselors to receive HFL Partners in Prevention stipends of \$514.30 each for making training videos:
 - Heidi Schellinger
 - Megan Papp
 - Angela Ruby
 - Sara Harmon
 - Tara Walden
 - Tim Flanagan
 - Tia Kolasa
 2. The following to receive stipends from the Empower Hour Grant
 - Sarah Huff - \$1000 stipend for BioMed at Rolling Prairie Elem.
 - Sarah Huff - \$1000 stipend for BioMed at Prairie View Elem.
 - Sarah Huff - \$1000 stipend for BioMed at Olive Twp. Elem.
 - Tim Flanagan - \$1,000 stipend for Lego League at Prairie View Elementary
 - David McGhee - \$1,000 stipend for Lego League at Rolling Prairie Elementary
 - Frank Hobart - \$1,000 stipend for Lego League at Olive Twp. Elementary

CLASSIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Jane Bealor – Intermittent FMLA Leave as Administrative Assistant at PVES beginning 3/26/2021 through 3/31/2022
 2. Tom Peterson – Resignation as NPUSC Head of Maintenance effective 4/16/2021
 3. Cary Damerow – Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary Health Aide effective 5/27/2021
 4. Kyle Gottschalk – FMLA Leave as NPMS Building IT Technician beginning 4/5/2021 through 5/5/2021
 5. Amy Talboom – Resignation as Prairie View Elementary Instructional Aide effective 4/1/2021
 6. Angie Keehn – FMLA Leave as NPUSC Bus Driver beginning 4/22/2021 through 5/5/2021

7. Ron Butt – Termination as Prairie View Elementary School Custodian effective 4/27/2021
- Employment
 1. Michael Barnes – NPUSC Head of Maintenance pending criminal background check results
 2. Nichole Kirkpatrick – Prairie View Elementary School Title I Instructional Assistant beginning 4/26/2021
 - Employment – Classified 2021 Summer School & Camp Staff
 1. Angela Deutscher – Camp Eberhart Staff
 2. Jessica Finn – Camp Eberhart Staff
 3. Abigail Huff – Camp Eberhart Staff
 4. Jackson Buhring – Camp Eberhart Staff
 5. Aryana Shelton – Camp Eberhart Staff
 6. Angela Lenig – Camp Eberhart Staff
 7. Nathan Meyer – Camp Eberhart Staff
 8. Gretchen Gadacz - Camp Eberhart Staff
 9. Alexa Cannon – Camp Eberhart Staff (Pending grant funding)
 - Employment – Summer Classified 2021 Driver's Education
 1. Ryan Radtke – Driver's Education Instructor pending criminal background check results
 2. Miles Fettinger - Driver's Education Instructor pending criminal background check results
 3. Bob Harvey - Driver's Education Instructor pending criminal background check results
 - Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Dan Luther - 5th Grade Wrestling Co-Coach at Olive Twp. Elementary School for school year 2020-2021
 2. Emily Rowe – NPHS Co-Color Guard Coach for the 2020-2021 school year
 3. Haley Shankland - NPHS Co-Color Guard Coach for the 2020-2021 school year
 4. Tre'von James – NPHS Indoor Percussion Instructor for the 2020-2021 school year
 - Adjustments
 1. Doug Wilhelm, NPUSC Custodian, to receive a wage increase of .82 per hour for increase in maintenance duties.

REPORTS

- Dr. White thanked Ms. Bartlett and Mrs. Tia Kolasa for their presentation this evening. He also thanked Mrs. Kolasa for her help with students and families dealing with social/emotional issues during this difficult time, as well as her work with the Rolling Prairie staff. He said that it is exciting to see positive outcomes in her work.
- Dr. White then introduced Mrs. Aerts, Biomedical Sciences Teacher and HOSA Coach, who spoke on the 52 HOSA members who competed at State. Mrs. Aerts said that there were a number of students who qualified for International competition. Mrs. Aerts announced the State winner's names and their awards. Dr. White and the Board presented certificates for those students to Mrs. Aerts. Dr. White and the Board thanked Mrs. Aerts for her hard work with these students and congratulated them on their successes.
- NPUSC wants to congratulate Ms. Margaret Stepniewski, 1st grade Teacher at Olive Twp. Elementary, on her retirement after 33 years of teaching NPUSC students. NPUSC wishes her well and thanks her for her service to NPUSC students & staff.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted Donations as Listed:
 - American Electric Power Foundation presented New Prairie High School Robotics FRC Team 2197 a grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 for FIRST Grant, FRC

- American Electric Power Foundation presented New Prairie Middle School Robotics Team a grant in the amount of \$500.00
 - New Prairie High School receive \$500.00 from Dr. Brian C. Fryar, D.D.S. from LaPorte
- (B) The Board approved Textbook Fees for 2021-22
- (C) The Board approved Athletic Trainer Contract with St. Joseph Regional Medical Center
- (D) The Board approved the Renewal Agreement with PowerSchool for Schoology License and Subscription for 2021-2022
- (E) The Board approved the New Job Descriptions for:
- Academic Interventionist
 - Summer School Leader 6-12
 - Summer School Leader K-5
 - Information Management Specialist
- (F) The Board approved the AP-TIP Indiana Affiliate Agreement for 2021-2022
- (G) The Board approved the Revised School Days Calendar for 2021-2022
- (H) The Board approved the Nutritional Services Maintenance Program Agreement
- (I) The Board approved the Closure of the following Classes to Transfer Students for the 2021-2022 school year:
- Olive Twp. Elementary 3rd Grade
 - New Prairie High School 12th Grade
- (J) The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding for Shared Services with the LaPorte County Public Library
- (K) The Board approved the Emergency Expenditure for a Chiller Repair at NPHS
- (L) The Board approved the Fuel Fixed Rate, One Year Contract with Current Fuel Supplier

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- (A) 1st Reading of Board Policy 4150
- The Board did not have any questions or comments on this policy.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. DeMeyer thanked Ms. Bartlett for the walk-thru of the school this evening.
- Mr. King stated that we are in the final 22 days of school. He asked that all our stakeholders stay strong as we are in the final countdown to the end of the school year.
Mr. King went on to thank Ms. Bartlett and Mrs. Kolasa for their presentation tonight on all the good things going on at Rolling Prairie Elementary School. Mr. King mentioned that the Special Board Meeting on Monday, April 12th to pass the resolution to oppose ESA and Voucher Expansion, along with all the other public-school districts in Indiana opposing the Voucher expansion, was heard by the state causing a 75% reduction of proposed public tax funding to Charter, Private, Virtual, etc. schools. He thanked all the communities and school corporations who joined together to pass this resolution.
Mr. King concluded the meeting stating that the next regular Board Meeting will be May 24th, at New Prairie Middle School in the LGI Room at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Groves made the motion to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.