

BOARD NOTES
February 22, 2021

The regular meeting of the School Board was held Monday, February 22, 2021, at New Prairie United School Corporation Central Office Board Room with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Al Williamson, Mr. Dale Groves, Mr. Jason DeMeyer and Mrs. Jill Smith 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. Williamson to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mr. Groves and approved.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

(A) New Prairie High School Presentation

- Mrs. Jen Sass, NPHS Principal, presented a year in review for the High School for 2020-2021. She explained that everything that was done this year was based on 4 questions of the PLC learning process: what do we want the students to learn; how are we going to know if students mastered the skill; what are we going to do if students did not master the skill; and what will we do for those who need an extension or enrichment of the skill. She explained in detail how these 4 questions were answered for the high school students this current year. Mrs. Sass stated that because of the many ways teachers and administration have changed their strategies for answering these questions during the pandemic, for the first time ever, all seniors are on track to graduate.
- The Board members expressed how impressed they are to hear the great work being done at the high school and thanked Mrs. Sass for her presentation.
- Dr. White stated that the Mrs. Sass, NPHS teachers, and her team have done outstanding work implementing every step in the PLC process. New Prairie High School is part of 1% of high schools in America that have a Response to Intervention program on a weekly basis for students who are struggling. Dr. White expressed his gratitude for the extraordinary work done.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the following Consent Items:

- (A) Minutes – January 25, 2021 & February 8, 2021
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Catherine Saylor – FMLA Leave as Olive Twp. Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher beginning approximately 4/12/2021 through the end of the school year
 2. Amy Wolfe – FMLA Leave as Rolling Prairie Elementary 1st Grade Teacher beginning 1/27/2021 through 3/12/2021
 3. Katie Kester – FMLA Leave as NPHS Social Worker beginning 4/10/2021 through the end of the school year
- Employment
- Employment – Extra-Curricular

1. Aimee Litka – NPHS JV Girls Basketball Coach for 1/3 pay for the 2020-2021 school year
 2. Erica White - NPHS JV Girls Basketball Coach for 1/3 pay for the 2020-2021 school year
 3. Amy Bauer – NPMS Robotics Coach for the 2020-2021 school year
 4. Jim Matz – Prairie View Elementary Wrestling Coach for the 2020-2021 school year
 5. Bobby Whitenack – Olive Twp. Elementary Wrestling Coach for the 2020-2021 school year
 6. John Arndt – NPHS Boys Cross Country Head Coach for the 2021-2022 school year
 7. Jalen Alexander – NPHS Co-Head Boys Track Coach beginning 2020-2021 school year
 8. Julie Beakas - NPHS Co-Head Boys Track Coach for the 2020-2021 school year
- Employment – Afterschool Program
 1. David McGhee – Rolling Prairie Elementary School Lego League Instructor for the 2020-2021 school year
 - Adjustments
 1. Crystal Snyder to receive \$1,000 stipend from the PiP Grant for implementing the Partners in Prevention curriculum
 2. Julie Beakas to receive a \$150 stipend from the Pip Grant for lessons she completed prior to her leave of absence

CLASSIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Annelise Bello – Resignation as Secretary to the Principal at New Prairie High School effective 2/10/2021
 2. Meredith Igaz – Intermittent FMLA Leave as NPHS Attendance Secretary beginning 1/1/2021 through 6/30/2021
 3. Philip Strader – Termination as NPHS Head Boys Track Coach for the 2020-2021 school year effective 2/12/2021
 4. Jennifer Zolvinski – Resignation as Administrative Assistant to the Director of Technology effective 1/20/2021
- Employment
 1. Barb Chappell – Administrative Assistant to the Technology Director pending criminal background check results
 2. Ronda Haverstock – NPUSC Bus Driver, Bus 28 NPHS/NPMS Bus Route starting 2/4/2021
 3. Brenda Adkins – New Prairie High School Building Administrative Assistant pending criminal background check
 4. Mary Sue Reilly – NPUSC Bus Aide start date pending criminal background check results
 5. Joseph Arndt – NPUSC Maintenance Technician start date pending criminal background check results
- Employment - Afterschool
 1. Alissa Veldman – Olive Twp. Elementary School Afterschool Instructional Assistant for the 2020-2021 school year
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Jacob Walter – NPHS Assistant Boys Track Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year
 2. Kyleigh Kubik – NPHS JV Girls Basketball Coach for 1/3 pay for the 2020-2021 school year
 3. Eric Schuck – Rolling Prairie Elementary School 5th Grade Girls Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 school year
- Adjustments

REPORTS

- Dr. White thanked Mrs. Kathy Zielke, Corporation Nurse, her health services staff, administration, teachers, parents and community that have been very supportive of NPUSC's COVID protocols. Dr. White stated that presently we have 2 or less COVID cases in each of our 5 schools, which is encouraging given NPUSC has been in full attendance for the last couple of weeks. Hopefully we can keep it that way though it is understood that with this pandemic it could change. Transitioning to full attendance so far has been positive for New Prairie and we are still monitoring daily.
- Dr. White mentioned that winter sports are ending soon with outstanding work being done. New Prairie High School's, Hunter Whitenack made the State Finals for wrestling. The NPHS swim team finished third at the sectional and has broken many records this season. The boys' basketball team is having the best season they have had in a very long time and is hosting the sectional next week. The girls' basketball team had an improved season this year with their young team. Dr. White finished by congratulating all the New Prairie Teams on their winter season with the challenges that have been presented this school year.
- Dr. White stated that ILEARN Testing is coming in March. The State Superintendent announced her advocacy recently that this test should be used for informational purposes only and not tied to accountability. Dr. White concurred with this view and shared he hoped the legislature and State Board of Education followed the recommendation.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted Donations as follows:
 - Olive Twp. Elementary School received the following donations:
 - \$50 to Maggie Stepniewski's Classroom & \$50 to Casey Gumm's Classroom from Ron & Mona Willis
 - \$50 Joe's Grocery Gift Card gifted to an Olive Twp. Elementary family from the Hudson Lake Mennonite Church
 - \$359.45 from Hudson Lake Mennonite Church
 - Prairie View Elementary School received \$359.45 from Hudson Lake Mennonite Church to be used for students needs
 - NPHS FIRST Robotics Teams received a \$5,000 Grant from Bayer
- (B) The Board approved the Drivers Education Summer Program & Fees for 2021
- (C) The Board approved the NPUSC Summer Remediation Programs for 2021
- (D) The Board approved the Insurance Renewal with Wright Specialty, Beazley, and United Heartland through Gibson Insurance.
- (E) The Board approved the Conflict of Interest Form for:
 - Adam Podell
- (F) The Board approved the Out of State Field Trip Request:
 - Olive Twp. Elementary, Rolling Prairie Elementary, & Prairie View Elementary to Camp Eberhart, June 7th or 8th through June 11th, 2021 in Thee Rivers, MI. The trip is sponsored by the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte Grant
- (G) The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between NPUSC and Healthcare Foundation of Laporte relating to the Empower Hour Grant
- (H) The Board approved the Contract between NPUSC and YMCA Camp Eberhart

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- (A) The Board had the 1st Reading Updated Board Policies Volume 33, No.1: 1220, 2370.02, 2623, 2700, 5111, 5130, 5610, 5895, 6114, 6325, 8390, 8400, 8405, 8462, 8500, 8510, 8600, 8800, 9700. The Board members had no comments on the policy updates.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Groves stated that the past year and a half has been challenging for everyone. He thanked everyone from the Superintendent on down who made this past year work educating our students. He expressed that the Board appreciates all that everyone has done to make to do right by our students.
- Mr. DeMeyer agreed with Mr. Groves stating that in addition he knew we would get through these challenging times and come out stronger. So much has been learned which will help us in our new norm.
- Mrs. Smith thanked the high school for their presentation. Mrs. Smith also mentioned that there are 2 female wrestlers going to state and the NPHS Bowling Club Team went to sectionals and did well with one bowler going to state competition.
- Mr. King thanked Mrs. Sass for the high school presentation. Mr. King stated that they are doing a fantastic job with such a positive outlook for the future. Mr. King added that the next regular Board meeting will be on March 22nd at Prairie View Elementary School at 6:00 p.m. CST.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Groves made the motion to adjourn.