

BOARD NOTES
January 24, 2022

The regular meeting of the School Board was held Monday, January 24, 2022, at the Central Office Board Room with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Al Williamson, Mr. Jason DeMeyer and Mrs. Jill Smith present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was also present.

Mr. Dale Groves was absent.

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

There was a motion by Mr. DeMeyer to approve amending the Agenda tabling Action Item D. The Board unanimously approved the Amended Agenda 4-0-1.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – December 13, 2021, January 3, 2022
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 - 1. Heidi Schellinger – Resignation as NPHS Counselor effective 1/5/2022
- Employment
- Employment – Afterschool
 - 1. Maria Sobecki – NPMS Afterschool Program ELA Tutor beginning 1/10/2022, pd by HFL Grant
 - 2. Katlyn Lewandowski – Olive Twp. Elementary Afterschool Program Teacher beginning 1/10/2022, pd by HFL Grant
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 - 1. Mark Stone – NPHS Assistant Boys Track Coach beginning Semester 2 of 2021-2022 school year
 - 2. AJ Sorg – NPHS Co-Lunchroom Supervisor beginning Semester 2 of 2021-2022 school year
 - 3. David McGhee – NPHS Fine Arts Department Head beginning Semester 2 of 2021-2022 school year
- Adjustments

CLASSIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 - 1. David Riordan – FMLA Leave as NPUSC Maintenance Technician beginning 12/15/2021 through 1/31/2022
- Employment
 - 1. Paula Benninghoff – Rolling Prairie Elementary Custodian beginning 12/27/2021
 - 2. David Buell – NPUSC Grounds Maintenance Worker beginning 1/17/2022

3. Lori Hughes - New Prairie Middle School English Language Learner Instructional Assistant pending criminal background check results
- Employment – Afterschool
 1. Delanie Bronner – Olive Twp. Elementary Afterschool Program Instructional Assistant beginning 1/10/2022, pd by HFL Grant
 2. Melissa Krycka – Olive Twp. Elementary Afterschool Program Nutritional Instructor beginning 1/17/2022, Stipend pd by HFL Grant
 - Employment – Extra-Curricular
 - Adjustments
 1. Dawn Horn, NPHS Administrative Assistant to the Corporation Nurse and Guidance Counselors, is to receive a temporary \$2.00 an hour pay increase for additional Guidance Counselor Duties from January through April 29, 2022 which she will then return to her previous pay rate

REPORTS

- Dr. White mentioned that NPUSC has so much to celebrate and be thankful for regarding the community support this corporation has. Dr. White first thanked Mr. Steve Wade, NPHS Mathematics Teacher and community member, for his significant contribution to NPUSC Athletics during his many years of teaching at New Prairie. Mr. Wade was recently awarded the “District 1 Distinguished Service Award” by the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association for his contributions as an announcer and scorekeeper. Dr. White added that sports announcers have been an influence in our lives and Mr. Wade has been that for New Prairie for many years now. Dr. White congratulated Mr. Wade and thanked him for his professionalism and dedication to New Prairie athletes.
- Dr. White introduced Keith Nichols, CEO of Northwest Health LaPorte and community member, whose organization donated an extensive list of items to help outfit the new locker room annex at Amzie Miller Field. Mr. Ben Bachmann, NPHS Athletic Director, explained the great impact the donated items will make with our athletes, coaches and athletic trainer in outfitting the new building. Mr. Bachmann thanked Northwest Health who made the generous donation. Mr. Nichols stated that he appreciates the opportunity to give back to the school system. Dr. White also thanked Mr. Bachmann and Mr. Aikman for all the work involved in transporting the items back to New Prairie. Dr. White thanked Mr. Nichols and Northwest Health once again.
- Dr. White announced that Dr. Cannon put a grant application together through the Indiana Department of Education winning \$1.186 million that will be awarded to the New Prairie Education Foundation (NPEF) for NPUSC for additional interventionists at the secondary level, social workers through a contracted service, and a Dyslexia Instructional Assistant for our most struggling learners. Dr. White introduced Ms. Deb Varnak, President of the NPEF, who has helped with grant funding. Ms. Varnak had each of the NPEF members present to introduce themselves. Ms. Varnak stated that they are excited to be a part of the NPUSC funding needs. Dr. White added that this is another example of community

working to support NPUSC. Dr. White concluded by thanking the NPEF for all they do for NPUSC.

- Dr. White highlighted some items that he and the School Calendar Committee agreed upon for the School Calendar for 2022-23 that will be voted on by the Board this evening.

ACTION ITEMS

(A)

The Board accepted Donations:

- NPUSC received a donation of hats, gloves and scarves from the American Legion Auxiliary Post 297
- NPHS Robotics received a donation of \$300 from K-Fex, Inc. and \$500 from Grimm Mold & Die Company, Inc.
- NPHS Robotics received a donation of \$1,000 from Northern Indiana Chapter of the NECA
- Rolling Prairie Elementary received a donation of \$500 from Mendoza Concrete for holiday meals
- Northwest Health LaPorte donated to NPUSC the following items to help outfit the new locker room annex that is currently under construction:
 - 32 Plastic stacking chairs (various blue/black/tan)
 - 6 Round Office Clocks
 - 6 Waiting room fabric side chairs (2 double / 3 single)
 - 22 Sections of Herman Miller Workstations
 - 8 Herman Miller two drawer mini file cabinets (fit under workstations)
 - 6 Narrow rectangular tables
 - 2 Small round office side tables
 - 1 6ft plastic folding table
 - 1 6ft wooden folding table
 - 4 White boards
 - 3 Round exam stools on rollers
 - 2 Large laundry tubs
 - 2 Med laundry tubs
 - 4 Small laundry tubs
 - 6 Rows of white Rubbermaid wall shelving
 - 1 Plastic towel cart
 - 6 Wooden lockers
 - 1 Sm nurse's station refrigerator
 - 1 Break room refrigerator
 - 4 Sm Rubbermaid trash cans with foot opener
 - 1 Small service ice machine
 - 5 Patient room couches
 - 4 Patient room reclining chairs
 - 3 Patient room wooden rolling carts
 - 5 Metal storage racks
 - 1 Washing machine
 - 1 Clothes dryer
 - 2 Exam/rehab tables

(B)

The Board accepted Conflict of Interest Statements for:

- Jason DeMeyer
- Ashley Williamson

- Mindie Colanese
- (C) The Board approved Funds Transfer from Education Fund to Referendum Fund
- (D) The Board tabled the 2022 New Prairie Little League & Rolling Prairie Baseball Association Agreements
- (E) The Board approved the Updated COVID Return to School Plan
- (F) The Board approved the School Days Calendar for 2022-2023
- (G) The Board approved the Closure of Classes to Transfer Students, Grades K – 12, February 1st for the remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year
- (H) The Board approved Overnight Field Trip Requests:
 - NPHS Robotics Team to compete in the District Qualifying Event at Northwestern High School, Kokomo, IN, March 4 – 6, 2022
 - NPHS Robotics Team to compete in District Qualifying Event at Lafayette Jefferson High School, Lafayette, IN, March 24 – 26, 2022
 - NPHS Robotics Team to compete at Indiana State Finals (contingent upon qualification) at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, IN, April 14-16, 2022
 - NPHS Robotics Team to compete at FRC World Championship (contingent upon qualification) in Huston, TX, April 19-23, 2022
- (I) The Board approved the Close-Out of Inactive Funds
- (J) The Board approved Old Checks to be Voided
- (K) The Board approved Lawn Mowing Services Bid
- (L) The Board approved a New Job Description for a Dyslexia Instructional Assistant

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Wade for all he has done for New Prairie. Mrs. Smith then thanked all those who donated to NPUSC.
- Mr. Williamson congratulated Mr. Wade and thanked him for all he has done for NP. Mr. Williamson added that he has had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Wade for a very long time. Mr. Williamson has worked in the press box with Mr. Wade during football games which is organized chaos that Mr. Wade handles so well. Mr. Williamson went on to thank Northwest Health for all they have given us. Mr. Williamson asked Mr. Bachmann if we can give them some free advertisement at our athletic events for all they have provided to us.
- Mr. DeMeyer agreed with Mr. Williamson. He congratulated Mr. Wade and thanked Northwest Health for their generous donations.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Williamson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm.

“LET’S TALK SESSION”

- (A) Board Policy 7510 – Use of School Facilities
Mr. King opened the floor to three gentlemen who signed up to speak with the Board.
 - Mr. Greg Smith began by thanking those who are implementing services that students with dyslexia need as it will make a big difference in their lives.

Mr. Smith explained that he has been a local 4H leader hosting meetings once a month at Prairie View for the last 20 years to New Prairie students in the cafeteria without having to pay a fee. He would like to know what can be done as the fee is a burden on the club. His club currently has a total of 55 local students whom all attend the NPUSC schools. The school building has offered students and parents a safe environment and space for many years. Following the meetings, the students and parents always clean up after themselves so the custodians do not have to though the custodians are always happy to help. These meetings never make a profit and if they did they would be happy to pay. Mr. Smith also stated that he is a Scout Leader for New Prairie students who have been meeting after school in the Science Room for many years as well. Meeting after school is convenient for parents and gives kids something positive to do after school. It is very difficult to find a place to meet for both clubs and the fee burden is too much as well especially for the non-profit organizations. Mr. Smith thanked the Board for listening.

- Mr. Richard Lee is the Scout Master of Group 664 in New Carlisle and has been a Scout Master for the past 60 years. He explained that he has had many Scouts from NPHS on the varsity football team as he believes scouting has made them better football players. Scouting offers commitment & core values. Scouting is based on ability and desire. He stated that the local tax payers pay a lot of money in taxes for the school buildings. It is hard on families now to pay that extra money. To charge the scouts for the building use that taxpayers already paid on is an additional burden on parents and scouting gives back so much to the community. Mr. Lee thanked the Board for listening.
- Mr. Ed King, New Prairie pack 350 Cub Master, thanked the School Board and Dr. White for allowing him to speak on the topic regarding the policy on charging for use of the school facilities for local youth-based nonprofit organizations. Mr. King went on to thank the custodial staff at Prairie View for being so accommodating for the time spent using the cafeteria and classrooms prior to learning about the fee now being charged for their use. Mr. King added that they have always cleaned up following use of the space leaving it better than when we found it which this is one of the core values of the scouts. Mr. King explained to the Board the core foundations of the scout's law which are wholesome and necessary values that our children need especially in this day and age. Mr. King quoted the paragraph in the policy (section 6 policy 7510) regarding the charging of rental rates: "rental rates for agencies or groups that have more than fifty percent (50%) attendees residing within the Corporation boundaries may at the discretion of the superintendent or designees have reduced or waived rates. Mr. King's pack of 27 students are all NPUSC students that more than qualifies for the criteria. We appreciate that Dr. White offered a reduced fee but with the students we have any cost is not affordable for our families. Being a non-profit we do not make the funds to cover the rental cost, however, if we did have a fundraising event that we would charge for we would be happy to pay the corporation. Utilizing Prairie View is safe and secure which is large enough for our numbers and leaves room for growth of our organization. All volunteers must have in-depth youth protection training and a background check. In conclusion Pack 350 formally requests that fees be waived for the use of the facility for their programs. He graciously thanked the Board and Dr. White for the use of the facility prior to learning of the fees being charged.

- Mr. Williamson asked how many times a week do the scouts meet? Mr. Ed King responded that they meet once a week depending on the level that the kids are at. When the weather is nice sometimes the groups take field trips and rooms may not be needed. Once a month all the packs meet so the kids can obtain the badges they earned which the school cafeteria is ideal. Mr. King stated that all packs meet together at one time to celebrate the kids and their accomplishments.
- Mr. DeMeyer stated that he really appreciates all that these leaders do for kids as his children are avid active 4H members.
- Mr. Phil King thanked the gentlemen present this evening. The Board and Dr. White will discuss this further and will respond soon.