

## BOARD NOTES

August 8, 2022

The regular meeting of the School Board was held Monday, August 8, 2022, at New Prairie United School Corporation Central Office Board Room with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Dale Groves, Mr. Jason DeMeyer, Mr. Al Williamson, 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 Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. DeMeyer to approve the Agenda, and was approved 5-0.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Claims
- (B) Personnel Report as follows:

### **CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
  1. Tara Curless – ECA Resignation as NPMS Assistant Volleyball Coach effective 7/19/2022
  2. Randall Budreau – Teaching Resignation as NPHS Business Teacher effective 7/29/2022
  3. Tina Trojanowski – Intermittent FMLA Leave as Prairie View Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher beginning 8/1/2022 through 6/1/2023
  4. Leann Pease – ECA Resignation as Spell Bowl Coach at Prairie View Elementary effective beginning 2022-2023 school year
- Employment
  1. Leslie Zech – NPHS English Language Arts Teacher beginning 8/8/2022 pending criminal background check results
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
  1. Tara Curless – NPMS 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Head Coach beginning 2022-2023 school year
- Adjustments
  1. Adam Branch, NPHS Math Teacher, to receive a stipend for summer training to be paid from the PRIME Math Grant.
  2. Jennifer Litza, NPHS Math Teacher, to receive a stipend for summer training to be paid from the PRIME Math Grant

### **NON-CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
  1. Zach Ketterer – Resignation as NPHS Assistant Football Coach effective 7/31/2022
  2. Lori Lachmund – Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant effective 7/26/2022
  3. Ellis Stacy – Resignation as NPUSC Custodian effective 8/1/2022
  4. Brenda Boniface – Resignation as a NPUSC Bus Driver effective 8/10/2022
  5. Lisa Mills – Retirement as Olive Twp. Elementary Secretary effective 12/31/2022

6. Alex Zelasko – Termination as Custodian at Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective 8/4/2022
  7. Autumn Carter – Resignation as Secretary/Treasurer at Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective 8/8/2022
- Employment
    1. Marjorie Young – Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant pending criminal background check results
    2. Lori Sullivan - Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant pending criminal background check results
    3. Kelsey Moore – Olive Twp. Elementary School Instructional Assistant pending criminal background check results
    4. Jennifer Kaniewski - Olive Twp. Elementary School Instructional Assistant pending criminal background check results
    5. Jackie Woltman – NPUSC single route, MS/HS Bus Driver beginning 8/11/2022
    6. Chloe VanOverberghe – Olive Twp. Elementary Instructional Assistant start date pending criminal background check results
    7. Brianna Borkowski – NPHS Full-Time Custodian beginning 8/8/2022
    8. Jackson White – NPMS Part-Time Custodian beginning 8/8/2022
  - Employment – Extra Curricular
    1. Shaunna Sommers – NPHS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Head Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year
    2. Clem Litka – NPHS Varsity Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year
  - Adjustments
    1. Julie Abbott to transfer positions from Prairie View Elementary Lead Nutritional Services Worker to New Prairie Middle School Lead Nutritional Services Worker effective 8/8/2022.
    2. Alicia Deutscher to transfer positions from New Prairie Middle School Nutritional Services Crew Leader to Prairie View Elementary School Kitchen Manager effective 8/8/2022.
    3. Paul Friedrich, NPUSC Bus Driver to drop elementary route and will stay with single MS/HS bus route.
    4. Candice Scott to voluntarily transfer from Transportation part-time secretary to NPUSC Bus Driver for a MS/HS route Bus 60.
    5. April Manley – Transfer from Nutritional Service Worker at New Prairie High School to Food Service Worker at Prairie View Elementary School.
    6. Name correction from the Personnel Report approved July 25, 2022, Sydney Ziegler, NPHS Secretary, should be Sydney **Zeier** *not* Ziegler.

## REPORTS

- Dr. White shared his excitement with the start of the new school year. He announced the dates and times for the schools open houses this week.
- Dr. White discussed the good day of teacher training sessions today.
- Dr. White explained that this morning was a staff meeting to celebrate our school system's accomplishments and now looking ahead at 5 challenges that our school system will be engaged in. One focus area is on our Mission Statement that our purpose is to assure high levels of learning for ALL students. One important challenge this year is that we are acutely aware of the unique student populations within our school system, students

in poverty status, students in special education status, how our student learning processes are impacting them, and to be aware of the needs of our transgender student population. Dr. White shared and read to the Board and audience NPUSC current Board policy, 2260, “NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY”, per federal requirements our policy already protects those groups with regards to programming, activities and facilities. In recent time we have come to understand, working with our transgender students with regard to restroom access, we have worked it out individually with students having neutral restrooms available to those students. Dr. White shared a legal summary from Bill Kaminski’s office stating that the Federal Courts have consistently spoken that students should by legal interpretation have the right to access the restroom of their identifying gender. It is very clear that by Federal Law and the interpretation of the Federal Courts and by our corporation policy we need to be able to work with those situations. We have worked with our student support services team, our counselors and social workers to put together a Gender Support Plan to be implemented this school year. Each school will be meeting with transgender students individually to talk through a variety of issues related to their interaction with the school community along with the question regarding their restroom preference. The federal court cases are clear that the student doesn’t have to use the restroom they are identifying with but they need to have the option for that. We are adjusting our practice to be aligned with the legal precedence already established and our Board Policy. Dr. White went on that he shared this information with the Board this morning also sharing alarming statistical data in regard to the students in the LGBTQ and transgender community being as much as 4x more likely to be involved in a suicidal situation. Dr. White challenged everyone to be more understanding regarding where those students are coming from and to provide the most supportive and safe environment for them possible. Dr. White added that Mr. Ed Aikman, Director of Maintenance and Facilities, has just begun the process of creating a deeper sense of privacy in all restrooms in the school system over the next 6 to 9 months at the most by adding privacy stalls in all the schools. Materials are not in yet but the ordering is being done. Counselors and social workers will do a follow up presentation for faculty meetings in late August or early September. The gender support plan will be explained and how students will gain access. A student has to be identified in our gender support plan process to have the ability to access the legal precedent that has come out of the court cases. A student cannot walk in and say “I’m a girl and I want to use the girl’s bathroom”. There is a process to protect against that type of thing.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- (A) The Board approved the request to Advertise “Notice of Public Hearing for the 2023 Budget”
- (B) The Board accepted the following donations:
  - Olive Twp. Elementary received 11 backpacks with supplies from St. Joe County 911
  - NPHS Cheerleaders received a \$500 donation from Schwartz Solutions, Inc. from North Liberty
- (C) The Board approved the NWEA MAP Reading Fluency Subscription

(D) The Board approved the Closure of Classes to Transfer Students

**BOARD COMMENTS**

- All Board members welcomed staff and students back to school and wished them the best for a wonderful school year.
- Mr. King thanked all the teachers who took time from their summer break to attend the Solution Tree PLC Conference in Lincolnshire last week. Mr. King went on to explain that the dedication of our teaching team is amazing. Mr. King went on to let everyone know our next meeting will be August 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Mr. Groves made the motion to adjourn the meeting.