

Board Notes

June 26, 2023

The regular meeting of the School Board was held Monday, June 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m., at New Prairie High School in the Auditorium with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Jason DeMeyer, Mr. Dale Groves and Mr. Rich Gadacz present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was also present.

Mrs. Jill Smith was absent.

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

There was a motion by Mr. DeMeyer to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mr. Groves and approved 4-0-1.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes –May 22, 2023, June 14, 2023
- (B) Claims
- (C) Payroll
- (D) Financial Reports
- (E) Personnel Report:

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Madeline Mills – FMLA Leave as Olive Twp. Elementary 5th Grade Teacher beginning 9/6/2023 through 11/27/2023
 2. Ashley Hernandez – FMLA Leave as Rolling Prairie Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher beginning 5/24/2023 through 9/1/2023
 3. Samantha Eldridge – FMLA Leave as Rolling Prairie Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher beginning 7/27/2023 through 1/8/2024
 4. Kristen Kleist – ECA Resignation as RPES PL221 Chair effective 6/30/2021
 5. Steve Baumgartner – Resignation as Temporary NPHS Math Teacher effective 6/8/2023
 6. Laura Schreiber – FMLA Leave as Olive Twp. Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher beginning 10/3/2023 through 1/5/2024
- Employment
 1. Jocelyn Langford – Temporary Rolling Prairie Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher beginning 8/10/2023 through 12/22/2023
 2. Dylan Olson – NPHS Social Studies Teacher beginning 7/1/2023
 3. Paige Gonzales – Olive Twp. Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher beginning 7/1/2023
 4. Adam Tenbarge – NPHS Asst. Principal starting 7/1/2023 pending criminal background search results
 5. Heidi West - NPMS Asst. Principal starting 7/1/2023 pending criminal background search results
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Julie Beakas – NPHS Co-Asst. Girls Track Coach for the 2022-2023 school year
 2. Bobby Whitenack – NPHS Head Wrestling Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 3. Bobby Whitenack – NPHS Asst. Varsity Football Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 4. Gabriel Chavez – NPHS 9th Grade Football Coach beginning 2023-2024 school year
- Adjustments
 1. The following camp instructors are to be paid upon completion of the following camps:
 - Cheryl Karczewski - \$1500, Biomedical Science Camp, June 5-9 from 3E Grant
 - John Arndt - \$1500, Ag Plant & Science Camp, June 5-9 from 3E Grant

- Krissy Surma - \$1500, Ed Prof Camp, June 5-9 from 3E Grant
- Terrie Sult - \$1500, Business Camp, June 5-9 from 3E Grant
- Angela Ruiz - \$1500, Spanish Camp, June 5-9 from 3E Grant
- Terence Clines - \$1500, Computer Science Camp, June 12-16, from 3E Grant
- Keith Hite - \$1500, Building Trades Camp, June 19-23, from 3E Grant

CLASSIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
 1. Joe Ekovich – NPUSC Bus Driver, resigned his elementary school route but keeping his HS/MS Route effective 5/24/2023
 2. Caryn Spence – Resignation as RPES Grant funded Instructional Assistant position effective 5/24/2023
 3. Penny Garcia – Resignation as NPHS Nutritional Service Worker effective 6/13/2023
- Employment
 1. Jordan Moore – Rolling Prairie Elementary Building Tech beginning 5/25/2023
 2. Melissa Lindquist – Rolling Prairie Elementary Instructional Assistant beginning 8/10/2023 pending criminal background search results
 3. Amanda Nelson – NPMS Building Athletics/Guidance Secretary beginning 7/24/2023
 4. Jason Clemons – NPHS Adjunct Business Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year
 5. Cynthia Hamilton – Olive Twp. Elementary Instructional Assistant beginning 8/10/2023
 6. Justyna Oldham - NPUSC Bus Driver, from Substitute Bus Driver, driving Bus 64 HS/MS Route beginning 8/10/2023
- Employment – Summer 2023
 1. Caleb Kazmierzak - Student Summer 2023 Technology Staff
 2. Wyatt Horn - Student Summer 2023 Technology Staff
 3. Lydia Chappell - Student Summer 2023 Technology Staff
 4. Harrison Groves – Student Summer 2023 Custodial Staff
 5. Kala Gerencser – Summer 2023 Custodial Staff
 6. Michelle McVay – Summer 2023 Custodial Staff
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
 1. Jack Mayo – Prairie View Elementary Girls Basketball Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 2. Jack Mayo – Prairie View Elementary Boys Basketball Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 3. Ellie Michiaels – NPHS 9th Grade Volleyball Coach for the 2023-2024 school year pending criminal background check results
 4. Bill Gumm - NPHS Asst. Varsity Football Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 5. Josh Bolakowski - NPHS Junior Varsity Football Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 6. Kenneth Shipley - NPHS Junior Varsity Football Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 7. Jeff Edinger – NPHS Co 9th Grade Football Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 8. Dustin Buchanan - NPHS Co 9th Grade Football Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 9. Erica Schascheck – NPMS Co-Head Dance Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 10. Jeanie Schascheck - NPMS Co-Head Dance Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 11. Kasey Doorn – NPHS Head Girls Soccer Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
 12. William Chalik Jr. – NPHS Asst. Boys Soccer Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
- Adjustments
 1. Emily Kampf to transfer positions from Building Tech to Data Management Specialist effective 6/5/2023
 2. Alexis Lichtenbarger has an adjusted contract from 2022-2023 full pay NPHS Asst. Girls Track Coach to ½ pay NPHS Co-Asst. Girls Track Coach to be paid upon receipt of the signed 2022-2023 Adjusted Contract.
 3. Erika Burcham, NPUSC current Bus Driver, to take over Bus 76 HS/MS & Prairie View Route beginning 2023-2024 school year.

4. Elldona Ferguson, current bus driver, to take Bus 67 HS/MS bus route beginning 2023-2024 school year.
5. Bus Driver ECA Trip Pay-Earn route pay if the ECA trip starts during the route. ECA rates would apply during ECA trips outside of route time.
6. Bus Driver ECA Trip Pay Drive and Wait Time- ECA Drive and Wait Time \$16 per hour
7. Substitute Teachers to receive a \$15 stipend per instance when they are asked to cover two classes at the same time
8. NPUSC Directors, Ed Aikman, Sue Aikman, Lory Samford, Heather Jones to receive a \$2000 raise per director effective 7/1/2023
9. Melissa Krycka stipend for dual roles ends July 31st, 2023 due to hiring of Data Specialist.
10. Cindy Pardy to receive a .50 per hour increase as Building Tech for both Prairie View and Olive Twp. Elementary schools effective 7/1/2023.
11. Barb Chappell, Technology Operations Assistant to receive an increase of \$1.00 per hour for voluntarily adding the position of NPHS Building Tech effective 7/1/2023.
12. Steve Hand, NPUSC Network Administrator, to receive a salary increase of \$1,500 effective 7/1/2023.
13. The following camp instructors are to be paid upon completion of the following camps:
 - Audrey Henning - \$1000, Girls Robotics/STEM Camp, June 12-16, from 3E Grant
 - Sydney Varnak - \$1000, Adv. Mfg. Camp, June 19-23, from 3E Grant
 - Jason Clemons - \$1000, Business Camp, June 19-23, from 3E Grant
 - Kristine Gadacz - \$1000, Ag Plant & Science Camp, June 5-9 from 3E Grant

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted Donations:
 - Rolling Prairie Elementary School received an AED, 1 cabinet, and signage from the Health Care Foundation of LaPorte County valued at \$2,332
 - New Prairie Little League received a donation of new scoreboards from Ian Melton and his Clinic, Journeys Autism Center valued at \$8,275; Terry and Fran Jones Trust donated the cost of the score boards installation in the amount of \$5,000
- (B) The Board approved the Operation Agreement with LaPorte County Career & Technical Education for 2023-2024
- (C) The Board approved the 2023-2024 NIESC Renewal of Dairy Proposals
- (D) The Board approved the PowerSchool Unified Talent Perform Contract
- (E) The Board approved the NWEA Contract for 2023-2024
- (F) The Board approved the Revised High School Curriculum Guide
- (G) The Board approved Overnight Field Trip Requests
- (H) The Board approved the Summer 2023 Band Schedule
- (I) The Board approved the Debt Service Payments
- (J) The Board approved AK Smith MOU for 2023-2024
- (K) The Board approved Transfer of Funds from Operations Fund to Secure School Safety Grant
- (L) The Board approved the 2023-2024 NIESC Renewal of Food Proposals
- (M) The Board approved SMART Systems renewal for 2023-2024 school year
- (N) The Board adopted the updated Board Policy 0167.3 – Public Participation at Board Meetings
- (O) The Board Tabled the Athletic Trainer contract for 2023-2024
- (P) The Board approved the Emergency Repair of the Septic System at Prairie View Elementary School
- (Q) The Board approved the Turf Tank Lease beginning 2023 for a 6 Year Lease
- (R) The Board approved the Purchase of a 72 Passenger Lift Bus
- (S) The Board approved the Updated Board Meeting Schedule
- (T) The Board approved the Contract for Playground Equipment for the Elementary Schools

REPORTS

- Dr. White began by introducing the new Assistant Principals just approved by the Board, NPMS Asst. Principal, Ms. Heidi West and NPHS Asst. Principal, Mr. Adam Tenbarga stating a brief list of their accomplishments.
- Mr. Heinold stated that he is very excited to have Mr. Tenbarga at the high school and looks forward to working with him this year. Mr. Tenbarga thanked Dr. White, Mr. Heinold and the Board for giving him a chance, for their encouragement and hiring him. He understands that the bar is high here at New Prairie and looks forward to becoming part of this community.
- Mr. Holmquest began by congratulating the Softball Team then introduced Ms. Heidi West. Mr. Holmquest explained that he worked with Ms. West at Portage which gave him a chance to see her leadership abilities in action and is excited to have her expertise here at New Prairie. Ms. West stated that she is really excited to be here at New Prairie. She added that she is looking forward to meeting students and staff at the Middle School and getting started.
- Dr. White again welcomed the Assistant Principals to the Administrative Team.
- Dr. White began by stating that during the interview process with Coach Derek Hicks, he sold us on his philosophy and his vision for this team. Dr. White congratulated Coach Hicks on his leadership of this program and taking a good team and making it great. He then introduced Coach Hicks and had him come up on stage to speak.
- Coach Hicks took the microphone thanking Dr. White and the School Board for this evening of celebration. He stated that it is a great honor to be here. Coach Hicks then thanked Mr. Bachmann for his dedication and tireless work making sure the softball team had all their needs met. Coach Hicks let all players come up on stage and introduce themselves along with all his support staff. A video slide show of the team was presented as a surprise created by Mr. Bachmann.
- Dr. White concluded by inviting everyone to a reception in the cafeteria following the meeting to honor the NPHS Softball Team.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Gadacz congratulated the new Asst. Principals. He added that he attended the State Championship game. He stated that the team is incredible and congratulated them on an amazing win.
- Mr. DeMeyer welcomed the new Assistant Principals. He went on that the ladies did an amazing job and we are so proud and congratulations.
- Mr. Groves also welcomed the new Assistant Principals stating that New Prairie is a great place to be. He stated to the young ladies and coaching staff of the team that they did an amazing job and congratulations.
- Mr. King welcomed Ms. West and Mr. Tenbarga to the New Prairie family. He stated that we are looking forward to working with them. Mr. King added that words cannot express how proud we are of the Softball Team. Congratulations again to our State Champions as it is well deserved showing that hard work does pay off. The next regular Board meeting will be July 17th in the Board Room at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. King asked if the Board had any further business. The Board had no further business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.