

Board Notes
September 26, 2023

The regular meeting of the School Board was held Monday, September 26, 2023, at NPUSC Central Office Board Room 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. Gadacz. Mr. Groves made a motion to amend the Agenda adding Action Item "I". The motion was approved 4-0-1.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – August 28, 2023, September 20, 2023
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report

CERTIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
 1. Amy Barnard – Medical Leave as New Prairie High School Library Media Specialist beginning 3/18/2024 through 6/10/2024
 2. Julie Cinal – Intermittent FMLA Leave as NPMS Science Teacher beginning 9/13/2023 through 9/13/2024
- Employment
- Employment – Extra-Curricular & Ancillary Duties
 1. Angela Ruiz – NPHS New Teacher Mentor for the 2023-2024 school year
 2. James Schwingendorf – NPHS New Teacher Mentor for the 2023-2024 school year
 3. Mark Stone - NPHS New Teacher Mentor for the 2023-2024 school year
- Adjustments
 1. Wendy Sundwall to transfer positions from New Prairie Middle School Temporary 2 Year Contract ELA Teacher to Permanent New Prairie Middle School 6th Grade ELA Teacher beginning 8/11/2023.

CLASSIFIED

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
- Employment
 1. Brandon Costigan – Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant beginning 9/18/2023
 2. Sarah Mitchell - Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant start date pending criminal background check results
- Employment – Extra Curricular & Ancillary Duties
- Adjustments
 1. Jackie Woltman – NPUSC Bus Driver to drive a McKinney Vento Bus Route in addition to her Middle School/High School Bus Route starting 9/18/2023

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. White stated that it is a really exciting time in our school system. We have 3 particular topics we want to highlight and celebrate this evening. Dr. White said that he is a very lucky Superintendent to be working with the teachers, students, staff and community throughout this school system. This school system has accomplished some very amazing things that have been recognized recently starting with our incredible HOSA program at the high school and middle school led by Mrs. Tonya Aerts and Mrs. Jennifer Smith. Dr. White introduced Mrs. Aerts who explained that the high school had one student who qualified for International Competition. Myles Aerts attended Nationals in Dallas, TX, placing 7th in Clinical Specialty event. Mrs. Aerts added that from the middle school, Grace Varnak and Lillian Loeffler attended the International Competition as well. Grace Varnak placed 3rd in Health Career Preparation and Lillian Loeffler placed in the top ten in Health Career Exploration. For New Prairie to have top honors on the International Competition platform is an amazing accomplishment. She explained that there are not many Indiana students who achieve that. Mrs. Aerts and Mrs. Smith thanked the Board for their support and help in providing these opportunities to the students. Dr. White said that with the focus on career pathways this program is critical. Dr. White and the Board presented certificates to the students with special congratulations both to the students and parents.
- Dr. White then proudly announced that NPUSC is now a "Model PLC School System". He announced this honor publicly to the teachers and staff on Friday, September 22nd. Dr. White explained that this honor is very difficult to earn. Dr. White explained the PLC process then stated that to earn this status, the system must show three consecutive years of significant improvement in overall state testing data but also 3 years of consecutive improvement in particular subgroups of students. There are only 2 school systems in the State of Indiana that have earned this status. Bloomington School District was the first to earn this status approximately 9 years ago and New Prairie is second. Dr. White thanked everyone involved who has worked so hard for NPUSC students.
- Dr. White wrapped up his report with what he described as the biggest deal of all, Rolling Prairie Elementary School was awarded the US Department of Education's Blue-Ribbon School Award. Dr. White introduced Dr. Pamela Moore, Rolling Prairie Elementary School Principal, to explain how this honor was won. Dr. Moore explained that Rolling Prairie Elementary School was nominated by the State of Indiana to apply for this award which in itself is an honor. Not just any school can apply for this distinction. Dr. Moore then introduced teachers who worked tirelessly on the winning application; Mrs. Lisa Smiertelny, Mrs. Kristen Kleist, Mrs. Krissy Surma, Mrs. Amy Wolfe, Mrs. Cheryl Karczewski, Mrs. Michelle Kenaga, and Mrs. Melissa Kuczanski. Each of the teachers explained their part in filling out the application and the detail required by the US Dept. of Education. Dr. Moore stated that what has been the main thing that has helped earn this status is that they are a part of a model PLC school district. Dr. Moore exclaimed her great pride in her school, staff and district, thanking everyone. Dr. White thanked the teaching staff present for sharing their incredible award story. Dr. White said that this is a testament that Dr. Moore and her leadership has taken Rolling Prairie Elementary School to a whole other level. Dr. White ended his report thanking Dr. Moore again for all her efforts and for everything she does for the school.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board Accepted Donations:
 - Prairie View Elementary received a donation of \$208.48 from Hudson Lake Elementary Mennonite Church for student needs
 - Olive Twp. Elementary received a personal donation of \$100.00 from Alice Mentock to be used for Olive Student Activities

- Rolling Prairie Elementary School received school supplies for students in need from Stacey Holmes, Manager, Holiday Inn Express in LaPorte
- (B) The Board approved and adopted the 2024 Budget and Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates
- (C) The Board adopted the 2024 Capital Projects Fund Plan and Resolution
- (D) The Board adopted the 2024 Bus Replacement Plan Resolution
- (E) The Board approved the Overnight Field Trip Requests
- (F) The Board approved the Emergency Repair Expenditure
- (G) The Board approved the Closure to Transfer Students, grades K-12, in all NPUSC Schools, October 2, 2023, for the remainder of the First Semester for the 2023-2024 School Year
- (H) The Board accepted & Acknowledged NPUSC Compliance of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- (I) The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding for High-School Based Dual Credit between NPUSC and Ivy Tech Community College

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Groves stated that it was wonderful to highlight all the accomplishments here at New Prairie. What a wonderful place to be a part of. Mr. Groves thanked everyone who had a hand in making these accomplishments possible. Mr. Groves added that he couldn't be prouder.
- Mr. Gadacz echoed what Mr. Groves said.
- Mr. DeMeyer said it is always amazing to hear about student accomplishments here at New Prairie. Mr. DeMeyer then directed his following comment to Dr. White. Mr. DeMeyer stated that when he started as a new Board member beginning the PLC journey to where we are today, he couldn't be prouder of Dr. White and all he has done for New Prairie Schools. Dr. White's PLC journey, with the help of the leadership team along with all staff members, has been awesome.
- Mr. King mentioned that the number of schools who received the prestigious "Blue Ribbon School Award" in Indiana is 11. In the State of Indiana there is a total of 2,041 Charter and Public schools which puts us in the distinction of less than a half percent of schools in Indiana that were honored with this status. Nationwide there are 353 "Blue Ribbon Schools". Nationwide there are 105,368 public and charter schools which puts us in the category in less than one third percent who received this honor which is awesome putting us at the top in the US. Mr. King stated that he has had a 15-year journey with Rolling Prairie Elementary School. Mr. King stated that the heart that the teachers put into teaching our learners insuring high levels of learning is like nothing else. Mr. King congratulated the staff at Rolling Prairie once more for achieving their "Blue Ribbon School" award.
- Mr. King reminded everyone that the next Board meeting is October 23rd at the central office.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. King asked if the Board had any further business. The Board had no further business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.