

## **Board Notes**

January 24, 2024

The regular meeting of the School Board was held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, January 24, 2024, at Prairie View Elementary School Library with Mr. Phil King, Mrs. Jill Smith, Mr. Dale Groves and Mr. Rich Gadacz present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was also present.

Mr. Jason DeMeyer was absent.

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

There was a motion by Mr. Groves, seconded by Mr. Gadacz and approved 4-0-1.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION**

Mr. Kris Staats, Prairie View Elementary School, began his presentation introducing a few of his staff members present, Mrs. Lauren Dyer and Ms. Tyler Miller, to assist in his presentation. Mr. Staats highlighted some of the many special programs happening this year at Prairie View. He explained it has been awesome to see the kids in action along with everything teachers have been doing for kids. Mr. Staats explained a focus on team building due to new teachers this year along with teachers working at new grade levels in the school. A focus on building new relationships and setting team expectations/norms is a focus to support the important PLC work that is happening. Mrs. Lauren Dyer explained that she is committed to Prairie View and the PLC process. Mrs. Dyer said that moving forward with the PLC process this year at Prairie View an emphasis has been placed on teacher efficacy. All teachers agreed that increased efficacy (shared teacher focus and knowledge on how to improve student learning) will achieve better results and success for students. Mr. Staats concluded by presenting testing data showing that test scores are increasing. Teachers hard work and efforts are showing positive impact on the kids. The data is a testament to everyone in the building. Mr. Staats stated that Prairie View has an amazing intervention team and amazing teachers.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board approved Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – December 28, 2023, January 8, 2024
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report as follows:

#### **CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
- Employment
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
- Adjustments
  1. Arlene Zarate, NPHS Mathematics Teacher, adjusted FMLA Leave from Intermittent FMLA Leave to Full FMLA Leave beginning 1/8/2024 through February 29, 2024.

#### **CLASSIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
  1. Kamille Blacks – Resignation as NPMS Building Tech effective 1/22/2024
  2. Alexandra Newgent – Resignation as NPUSC Bus Driver effective 1/19/2024
  3. Renee Chojnacki – Resignation as Olive Twp. Elementary Instructional Assistant effective 2/2/2024
- Employment
- Employment – Extra-Curricular
  1. Amber Oldham – Rolling Prairie Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
  2. Dan Luther – NPHS Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
  3. Dan Luther – Olive Twp. Elementary Wrestling Coach for the 2023-2024 school year
- Adjustments

1. Loriann Bailey, NPHS Custodian, FMLA Leave correction from 12/8/2023 through 1/8/2024 to FMLA Leave beginning 12/8/2023 through 3/8/2024.

## **REPORTS**

### Superintendent's Report

- Dr. White thanked Mr. Staats and his staff for their presentation this evening. Dr. White said it is exciting to see how Mr. Staats has dove into his first year as principal, identifying a need and using the PLC tools effectively.
- Dr. White publicly thanked Mrs. Binder for teaching at Olive for 10 weeks covering a leave of absence then returned to Prairie View. Mrs. Binder is definitely a team player at the highest level.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- (A) The Board accepted Donations:
  - Olive Twp. Elementary received \$86 from the Hudson Lake Mennonite Church for student needs
  - Prairie View Elementary received the following donations:
    - Walmart Gift Cards valued at \$475 from the Rolling Prairie Business & Community Assn. & Saugany Lake Conservation Club intended for student needs
    - \$86 from the Hudson Lake Mennonite Church for student needs
  - New Prairie High School FFA received \$500 donation from the LaPorte County Farm Bureau
  - New Prairie High School Building Trades Program received \$2,645 in donations in honor of the memory of Bill Deutscher, Masonry Contractor, and longtime Board Member for the Building Trades Program
  - Rolling Prairie Elementary received Walmart Gift Cards valued at \$650 from the Rolling Prairie Business & Community Assn. & Saugany Lake Conservation Club intended for student needs
  - NPHS Athletic Dept. received a Zoll AED 3 from the Play for Jake Foundation
- (B) The Board accepted Conflict of Interest Statements
- (C) The Board approved Old Checks to be Voided
- (D) The Board accepted the Pitney Bowes Contract
- (E) The Board approved Updated Job Descriptions for:
  - IT Building Technician
  - Administrative Assistant to the Curriculum Director
- (F) The Board approved an Overnight Field Trip Request
- (G) The Board approved the 2024-25 NIESC Food COOP Agreement
- (H) The Board approved the Boyce Financial Software Contract

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Mr. Gadacz thanked Mr. Staats and his staff for his presentation. It was well prepared and did a good job.
- Mr. Groves echoed Mr. Gadacz comment stating that he appreciated their time.
- Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Staats and the staff here at Prairie View. Mrs. Smith then congratulated the woman's basketball team for their Bi-County win and good luck to all winter sports competing in sectionals.
- Mr. King stated that the next regular Board meeting will be at 6:00 pm on February 26<sup>th</sup> at New Prairie Middle School.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. King asked if the Board had any further business. The Board had no further business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.