

**Board Notes**  
March 25, 2024

The regular meeting of the School Board was held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 25, 2024, at Olive Twp. Elementary School in room 142, The Tiger Den, with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Jason DeMeyer, Mrs. Jill Smith, Mr. Dale Groves and Mr. Rich Gadacz present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was not present.

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

There was a motion to approve the Agenda by Mr. Groves, seconded by Mr. Gadacz and approved 5-0.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION**

Mrs. Bush, Olive Twp. Elementary School Principal, presented Olive Twp. Elementary School's Journey to becoming a "Model PLC School". Mrs. Bush explained that Olive began the journey in 2015 working very hard on the Professional Learning Community process of which the corporation now has a culture deeply rooted in collaboration. NPUSC now has a culture where **no** child falls through the cracks. A major mindset change "ALL means ALL" happened that focuses on every child. Academics and behavior then became the main focus. Mrs. Bush went on to describe the steps needed to make the changes necessary to become a "Model PLC School". Mrs. Bush presented the data that proves what they have been doing together as a whole is working for students. Hard things become easier because of the culture of collaboration. Collectively Mrs. Bush and the Olive staff thanked the Board for their support in the PLC process and for providing the resources and opportunities for PD. Mrs. Bush stated she will let the Board know as soon as she finds out if Olive becomes a "Model PLC School".

Mr. King thanked Mrs. Bush and said that the data proves that the process works. He went on to say that the Board is "all in" with the PLC process. Mr. King stated that the schools visited for Board meetings presented data that proves the PLC process works for students. It is obvious that all staff has "bought in" to the PLC process because their hard work shows it.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board approved Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – February 26, 2024
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report as follows:

**CERTIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirements
  1. Jon Schroeder – ECA Resignation as NPMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach effective 2/27/2024
  2. Tara Curless – ECA Resignation as NPMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach effective 3/6/2024
  3. Angela Smith – Resignation as NPHS Science Teacher effective 6/30/2024
  4. Lori Rose – ECA Resignation as NPMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach effective 3/19/2024
  5. Kortney Brennan – ECA Resignation as National Honor Society Co-Sponsor effective 6/30/2024
  6. Kortney Brennan – ECA Resignation as Lunchroom Supervisor effective 3/12/2024
  7. Angela Ruiz – ECA Resignation as NPHS Leadership Team Member effective 5/24/2024
  8. Arlene Zarate – Medical Leave as HS Math Teacher will continue through 5/24/2024
- Employment
- Employment – Co. & Extra-Curricular, Afterschool and Summer 2023-24

1. Marlene Nickerson – NPMS Girls Head Cross Country Coach for the 2024-2025 School Year
  2. Tara Curless – NPMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach beginning 2024-2025 school year
  3. Deborah Spite – Afterschool NPHS Tutor for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year paid by the HFL Grant
- Adjustments
    1. Tara White, Temporary Administrator College and Career Readiness, to receive a 3 Year Contract as Administrator College and Career Readiness beginning 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2027.
    2. Ashley Wojtysiak to receive a \$100 stipend for Family Swim night in March for the afterschool program paid by HFL Grant.
    3. Erin Jenkins to receive \$50 stipend for hosting a family night in March for after school paid by HFL Grant.

## **CLASSIFIED**

- Leaves/Resignations/Retirement
  1. Miranda Gross – Resignation as Transportation Bus Aide effective 3/14/2024
  2. Jackie Woltman – Resignation as NPUSC Bus Driver effective 3/15/2024
  3. Dawn Wilhelm – Resignation as Olive Twp. Elementary Afternoon Custodian effective 3/8/2024
  4. Jane Bealor – Intermittent FMLA Leave as PV Secretary/Treasurer beginning 3/20/2024 through 3/20/2025
  5. Jordan Moore – Resignation as NPUSC Building Technician effective 4/19/2024
- Employment
- Employment – Co. & Extra-Curricular, Afterschool, and Summer 2023-2024
- Adjustments
  1. Sarah Mitchell, Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant, to transfer to Olive Twp. Elementary School as Instructional Assistant effective March 18, 2024.
  2. Danielle Blint, current NPHS/MS Bus Driver, to add a mid-day LaPorte Pre-school route for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

## **REPORTS**

- Mr. King announced that in place of Dr. White's Superintendent Report, Mrs. Smith, Board Secretary, will give a report.
- Mrs. Smith recognized hard working, dedicated winter athletes who attended State competitions beginning with:
  - The High School dance team qualified in Poms with 9<sup>th</sup> place and Hip Hop 11<sup>th</sup> place. The sister duo of Kaylee (12<sup>th</sup> Gr.) and Madelyn Kienitz (10<sup>th</sup> Gr.) placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the duet division. The ladies and their parents were present at the meeting along with their coaches. The Board wished them all congratulations.
  - High School Gymnastics Club, Senior Anna Jasnieski, placed 17<sup>th</sup> on the vault at state competition. The Board congratulated Anna, her parents, and her coaches who were present at the Board meeting.
  - NPHS Ladies Swimmer, Senior, Emma Tulacz, finished 12<sup>th</sup> place in the 50 Yard Freestyle race. The Board congratulated Anna and her mom and Coach Wojtysiak who were present at the meeting.
  - Finally, NPHS wrestler, Jeffery Huyvaert, (Gr. 10) placed 5<sup>th</sup> in state competition at 144 lb. weight category. The Board congratulated Jeffrey, his parents and coaches who were present at the meeting.
  - Ben Bachmann, NPHS Athletic Director, addressed the student athletes present saying that he cannot say enough about the accomplishments achieved by these students this year. He stated that their goal was to be able to participate on the last day. The only thing better would be winning of which you were right there.

Mr. Bachmann stated that not only are you great individuals but you are great athletes. He thanked the students for their accomplishments and told the athletes to enjoy their recognition, great job.

## ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted Donations:
- NPUSC Educators Received a Donation of 20 Dozen Fresh Donuts for their Flex Day Training Day from Family Express
  - Prairie View Elementary School received the following donations:
    - Songer Steel Services (Tom Jarka) donated \$2,000 of PE Equipment
    - Rolling Prairie Lion's Club donated Dictionaries for all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students
    - Mill Creek Gleaners donated 5 cases (120 pair) of student headphones
  - NPUSC Nutritional Services received Donations for the Angel Fund from:
    - \$500 from Delta Theta Tau Sorority
    - \$100 from David & Renee Millar
    - \$250 from an Anonymous Donor
  - Heston Hills Event Center donated a discounted rate for room rental and food, valued at \$1500, for the New Prairie Athletic Department's Blue & Gold Gala
- (B) The Board approved Overnight Field Trip Requests
- (C) The Board approved the Closure of Grade 12 to Transfer Students for the 2024-25 school year
- (D) The Board approved an Updated Position Description:
- NPMS Library Assistant
- (E) The Board approved the NPHS Swimming Pool Repair Quote
- (F) The Board approved and adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Revised Board Policies:
- Po 0113- Boundaries
  - Po 5111 - Determination of Legal Settlement and Eligibility for Enrollment of Students without Legal Settlement in the Corporation; Proof in Indiana Residency
  - Po 8600 – Transportation
  - Po 8600.01 - Student Safety in Transporting
  - Po 8640 - Transportation for Field and other Corporation Sponsored Trips
  - Po 6550 – Travel Payment and Reimbursement/Relocation Costs
  - Po 8500 - Food Services
  - Po 8500.02 – Food Services -Meal Charging and Uncollectible Debt (**New Policy**)
- (G) The Board approved the Surf Internet Contract for NPUSC Internet Service
- (H) The Board approved the Updated 3E Summer Camp Proposal for 2023-24
- (I) The Board approved the 2024-2025 Turf Management Proposal & Agreement
- (J) The Board approved the NPHS Science Wing Roof Repair

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Gadacz stated that there is a lot to be thankful for. The great presentation by Mrs. Bush, the student athletes. The best part was when Mr. Bachmann said they are all doing really well with their grades which is more important than sports to him. We are lucky we have a pretty good system here.
- Mr. DeMeyer said it was very neat to hear the elementary perspective of successes, and the successes of the high school students. Mr. Bachmann hit it home with *mine* versus *ours* and drove it home of how many of us as individuals impact these students and give these opportunities to celebrate and help them, the highs and lows. It is rewarding to see it in our corporation.
- Mr. Groves thanked Mrs. Bush for all her hard work and he appreciates it.

- Mrs. Smith said thank you to Mrs. Bush and to everyone attending tonight. She congratulated them on their successes and wished everyone a great spring break.
- Mr. King thanked Mrs. Bush for opening up her building to allow the Board to have their meeting there, he really appreciates it. He went on to say that seeing the success of our students is what the Board is there for. When the Board made the decision in 2015 to start looking at this process and going down that road is one of the best decisions that they made. Mr. King added that we are a model for school districts around this region and around the state of what can be done. He wished Mrs. Bush the best of luck as he feels Olive will get the “Model PLC School” designation. He wished everyone a well-deserved break and returning rested up for test season. He concluded by saying that before we know it, it will be the end of May and we will be celebrating the successes of the school year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. King asked if the Board had any further business. The Board had no further business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.