

Board Notes

May 20, 2024

The regular meeting of the School Board was held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, May 20, 2024, at New Prairie High School in The Cougar Den with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Jason DeMeyer, Mrs. Jill Smith, Mr. Dale Groves and Mr. Rich Gadacz present. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was present.

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

There was a motion by Mr. DeMeyer to approve the Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Smith and approved 5-0.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION

- Mr. Heinold, NPHS Principal, explained that the Instructional Presentation will be focusing on the College and Career Readiness program at New Prairie High School. Mr. Heinold introduced Mrs. Tara White, Director of College and Career Readiness, who piloted the program this year through the 3E Grant.
- Mrs. White, Director of College and Career Readiness, discussed some of the new things started this year through the College and Career Readiness Program. She began by recapping the current graduation requirements for the State of Indiana and the future requirements. Mrs. White went on describe many of the new activities implemented this year that were supported by the 3E Grant which is complete this year. Looking ahead Mrs. White described her excitement that NP can continue the new programs and add some new which will be supported by a new grant received from the Commission of Higher Learning called the Career Coaching Grant. More information will be available soon on the new grant and what we will be adding and continuing next school year. Mrs. White then turned over the presentation to Mrs. Ruiz, NPHS Spanish Teacher, regarding the new “Certificate of Multi-Lingual Proficiency” stating that this is just one of many college and career readiness program opportunities we are excited about.
- Mrs. Ruiz explained the process of obtaining the “Indiana Certificate of Multi-Lingual Proficiency” for students in high school beginning as young as 8th grade. Students who earn this rigorous certificate can earn up to 12 college credits upon graduation. Currently 8 seniors will graduate with the “Indiana Certificate of Multi-Lingual Proficiency”. These are the first students to graduate from New Prairie High School with the certificate. There are currently 2 juniors, 5 sophomores, and 4 freshman who have attained the “Indiana Certificate of Multi-Lingual Proficiency” this year. Some of the high school students were present to be recognized for attaining this prestigious honor.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – April 22, 2024
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report as follows:

Certified

▪ Leaves/Resignations/Retirements

1. Kaylee Hooks – Child Rearing Leave as NPHS Social Studies Teachers beginning 4/29/2024 through 5/24/2024
2. Dr. Pamela Moore – Resignation as Principal at Rolling Prairie Elementary School effective 6/14/2024
3. Ashley Grylewicz – FMLA Leave as Olive Twp. Elementary School Regular Contract Academic Interventionist beginning 8/6/2024 through 10/29/2024. Child Rearing Leave beginning 10/30/2024 through 1/5/2025
4. Kristen Kleist – FMLA Leave as Rolling Prairie Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher beginning 4/12/2024 through 9/17/2024

5. Kristen Kleist – Child Rearing Leave 9/18/2024 through 9/27/2024
6. Madeline Mills – Resignation as 5th Grade Teacher at Olive Twp. Elementary School effective 6/30/2024

▪ **Employment**

1. Ashley Grylewicz – Olive Twp. Elementary School Regular Contract Academic Interventionist beginning 7/1/2024
2. Shalon Kirkwood – NPMS 6th Grade ELA Teacher beginning 7/1/2024
3. Garrett Curless – Rolling Prairie Elementary/Prairie View Elementary PE Teacher beginning 7/1/2024 pending criminal background check results
4. Rose Brienza – NPMS 7th Grade Science Teacher beginning 7/1/2024 pending criminal background check results

▪ **Employment – Co. & Extra-Curricular, and Summer 2024**

1. Jeanne Romstadt – NPHS Co-Lunchroom Supervisor for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year
2. Dawn Horn - NPHS Co-Lunchroom Supervisor for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year
3. Sue Kozumplik – NPMS Summer 2024 ELA Remediation Teacher
4. Shannon McBride - NPMS Summer 2024 ELA Remediation Teacher
5. Jennifer Smith - NPMS Summer 2024 ELA Remediation Teacher
6. Katy Lewandowski - NPMS Summer 2024 Math Remediation Teacher
7. Kristina Pentelow - NPMS Summer 2024 Math Remediation Teacher
8. Lori Rose - NPMS Summer 2024 Math Remediation Teacher
9. Kim Stepp – Summer 2024 Jumpstart Kindergarten Teacher
10. Cassie Pavey - Summer 2024 Jumpstart Kindergarten Teacher
11. Amy Schilla - Summer 2024 Jumpstart Kindergarten Teacher

▪ **Adjustments**

1. Adrienne Hurt – NPMS Art Teacher to transfer positions to NPHS Visual Arts Teacher beginning 7/1/2024
2. Sarah Binder – Prairie View Elementary School 5th Grade Teacher to transfer positions to Prairie View Elementary School Instructional Coach on a regular teacher contract beginning 7/1/2024.
3. The following Olive Twp. Elementary Teachers will receive STEM Grant Stipends of \$500 on 6/14/2024:
 - Rachel Chelminiak
 - Rachel Ralston
 - Kimberly Stepp
 - Victoria Balanow
 - Jenelle Hembree
 - Elizabeth Schmitt
 - Jennifer Veldman
 - Renee Mischak
 - Laura Vermillion
 - Tina Stombaugh
 - Mikayla Golden
 - Laura Schreiber
 - Paige Gonzales
 - Casey Gumm
 - Tammy Moore
 - Aislin Zwierzynski
 - Jacquelyn DeShone
 - Maddy Mills
 - Ashley Wojtysiak

The following Prairie View Elementary Teachers will receive STEM Grant Stipends of \$500 on 6/14/2024:

- Shelley Deckard
- Amy Schilla
- Sharon Bashaw
- Tina Trojanowski
- Hannah Stombaugh
- LeAnn Pease
- Erica Ketterer
- Shannon Edmondson
- Sandra Ernst
- Grace Tarnow
- Holly Harenza
- Tyler Miller

The following Rolling Prairie Elementary Teachers will receive STEM Grant Stipends of \$500 on 6/14/2024:

- Cassie Pavey
- Dedrae Smiley
- Krissy Surma
- Julie Kirkham
- Sara Serry
- Amy Wolfe
- Melanie Cloonan
- Megan Horvath
- Jarret Spence
- Samantha Eldridge
- Ashley Hernandez
- Kristen Kleist
- Kristina DeMeyer
- Michele Kenaga
- Nicole McClure
- Jane Bachmann
- Cheryl Karczewski
- Jemiah Piesyk

The following Middle School Teachers will receive STEM Grant Stipends of \$300 on 6/14/2024:

- Julie Cinal
- Jeff Meinhard
- Crystal Snyder
- Maria Sobecki
- Jenny Hite
- Dena True

The following High School Teachers will receive STEM Grant Stipends of \$300 on 6/14/2024:

- Tonya Aerts
- Julie Beakas
- Margaret Buss
- Neil Hackett
- Kimberly Holifield
- Jason Lenig
- Angela Smith

4. Ashley Wojtysiak to be paid a stipend of \$2,000 on June 14, 2024 from the HFL Grant for Spring and Summer Swim Camp sessions with benefits.
5. Catherine Saylor to be paid a stipend of \$2,500 on June 14, 2024 from the High Ability Grant for 2nd semester High Ability Coordinator duties, no benefits.
6. Holly Harenza – Transfer position from Prairie View Elementary School 5th Grade Teacher to NPMS 8th Grade Math Teacher beginning 7/1/2024
7. Janelle Hembree – Olive Twp. Elementary 1st Grade Teacher to transfer to 2nd Grade Teacher at Olive Twp. Elementary beginning 7/1/2024

CLASSIFIED

▪ **Leaves/Resignations/Retirement**

1. Jim Nace – Resignation as Director of Technology effective 6/30/2024
2. Jack Mayo – Termination as Rolling Prairie Elementary Instructional Assistant effective 4/26/2024
3. Cheyenne Hester – Resignation as NPMS Custodian effective 5/6/2024
4. Jamie Willis – Medical Leave as NPUSC Bus Driver beginning 4/8/2024 through 6/10/2024

▪ **Employment**

1. Kaylee Weisenberger – Olive Twp. Elementary Custodian beginning 4/30/2024
2. Kiyomi Trent – Nutritional Services Worker Full-Time at NPMS beginning 5/6/2024
3. Kelly Allen – NPMS Custodian beginning 5/7/2024

▪ **Employment – Co. & Extra-Curricular, and Summer 2024**

1. Shae Alva – NPMS Co-Cheer Coach for the 2024-2025 school year
2. Joshua Bolakowski – Prairie View Elementary Wrestling Coach for the 2024-2025 school year
3. Ross Strieter – NPMS Asst. Football Coach for the 2024-2025 school year
4. Ryan Wiesemann – NPMS Head Football Coach for the 2024-2025 school year

• **Adjustments**

1. Cierra Graham current Olive Twp. Elementary Custodian to transfer back to Rolling Prairie Elementary Custodian beginning 4/29/2024
2. Bronson Ellenwine, current Prairie View Elementary Custodian, to transfer positions to New Prairie Middle School Building Tech effective 5/28/2024
3. Shae Alva, NPMS Board approved **Co**-Cheer Coach, to receive the remainder of the full stipend for completing her duties as a **full** NPMS Cheer Coach for the 2023-2024 school year.

REPORTS

- Dr. White stated that New Prairie has so much to celebrate. Following the great work that we saw regarding the College and Readiness program, we celebrate the excellent initiative, born out of tragedy here at New Prairie, Tonya Aerts and the HOSA student group focused on HeartSafe preparedness making New Prairie as cardiac ready as we possibly can be. Over the last couple of years each of the 5 schools have earned HeartSafe Status through Project Adam. Dr. White announced that he and the Board celebrate the Middle School staff that on March 25th, as a result of all the HeartSafe training and safety plan training, saved a Middle School parent life in the parking lot at New Prairie Middle School. Dr. White read the list of staff who jumped into action to save this person's life and controlled the situation: Jenn Smith, Becky Lehker, Jessica Finn, Maria Sobecki, Heather Jones, Cory Neuenschwander, Susan French, Danielle Blosser, John Schroeder, Ron McVay, and Heidi West. Dr. White then introduced Mrs. Aerts who is and has been the heartbeat of this initiative from the start.
- Mrs. Tonya Aerts explained that this initiative started in 2019 following tragedy in our school. She went on to described the incredible amount of work to attain New Prairie High School's first HeartSafe School designation then further work was accomplished to achieve the first HeartSafe *school district* in IN, then, not expecting to be the first HeartSafe life saved school district in Indiana. Mrs. Aerts thanked everyone helping and supporting New Prairie's efforts in achieving this initiative.

- Dr. White concluded his report by stating what a fantastic school system and culture we have at New Prairie. He added that it is amazing to see the number of people who bring extra to the table every day because it matters to them to make a difference. Mrs. Aerts is an exemplary example of that. She gives 150% effort every day. This is an example of why New Prairie is such a special place to be.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted Donations
 - Heston Hills Event Center, Tim & Jackie Ohlund, donated the room charge for the NPHS Top Ten Dinner valued at \$1,500 and the donation of desserts valued at \$350
 - Prairie View Elementary received a donation of \$1,270 from ITR Concession Company LLC to cover fees for the 5th grade trip to Camp Tecumseh
- (B) The Board approved AP-TIP Indiana Affiliate Agreement for 2024-2025
- (C) The Board approved the Operation Agreement with the LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Area Vocational District #6
- (D) The Board approved Suggested Meal Prices for the 2024-2025 School Year
- (E) The Board approved the Superintendent's Contract
- (F) The Board approved the Corporation Bereavement Gift Amount
- (G) The Board approved the Northern Indiana Educational Services Center Shared Dietitian Consortium Services Contract
- (H) The Board approved an Overnight Field Trip Request
- (I) The Board approved the MOU between NPUSC and University of Indianapolis through the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning ("CELL")
- (J) The Board approved the Renewal of the PowerSchool SchoolMessenger Communicate software for the 24-25 School Year
- (K) The Board approved the Contract with the PowerSchool Keys to Ownership Consulting Group
- (L) The Board approved the Short-Term Contract with Filewave
- (M) The Board approved the Renewal of Sonicwall Supermassive 9200 Firewall
- (N) The Board approved an Updated Job Description:
 - Guidance/College & Career Readiness/Health Secretary
- (O) The Board approved the Starting Contracted Bus Drivers Wage Increase

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1ST Reading of Revised Board Policy 7540.03 – Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy
- There was no discussion on this revised policy by the Board

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mrs. Smith thanked Mrs. Aerts and HOSA and the Middle School Safety Team for all they have done. Congratulations on a great school year!
- Mr. Gadacz commented that every month we talk about the amazing things going on at this corporation. There are a lot of people responsible for saving a life which is amazing. He couldn't be prouder of being a School Board Member of this Corporation.
- Mr. Groves stated that he echoes the same comments already made. He stated a heartfelt thank you to everyone mentioned tonight in saving a life. That is something to be proud of. Congratulations to our soon to be graduates for this school year.
- Mr. King congratulated the 222 seniors who will be graduating on June 2nd, 2024. The next meeting will be held at the Central Office at 6:00 p.m., June 26th, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. King asked if the Board had any further business. The Board had no further business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.