

Board Notes
August 25, 2025

The regular meeting of the School Board was held Monday, August 25, 2025, at NPUSC Central Office Board Room with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Jason DeMeyer, Mrs. Jill Smith, Mr. Rich Gadacz and Mr. Rich Shail. Dr. Paul White, Superintendent, was also present.

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

There was a motion by Mrs. Smith to amend the agenda adding Action Items: (G) Approve Outside Extended Criminal History Background Checks For The 2025-26 School Year, and (H) Approve the Closure of Grade 5 to Transfer Students at Prairie View Elementary and Rolling Prairie Elementary Schools for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year, seconded by Mr. Gadacz and approved 5-0.

On a motion by Mr. Shail, seconded by Mr. Gadacz the regular meeting was suspended to hold the annual Budget Hearing.

BUDGET HEARING

Tim Scott, Director of Finance, explained the Budget Timeline to the Board then presented the proposed 2026 Budget Appropriations as follows:

- Educational Fund - \$23,718,000
- Debt Service - \$ 1,445,150
- Referendum Debt Service \$ 5,261,500
- Operations Fund \$11,073,499
- Rainy Day - \$ 1,000,000

The Board members thanked Mr. Scott for his Budget presentation. There were no questions from the Board.

On a motion by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. DeMeyer the Budget Hearing ended and the regular meeting was reconvened.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved the Consent Items as follows:

- (A) Minutes – July 21, 2025, August 4, 2025
- (B) Claims
- (C) Payroll
- (D) Financial Reports
- (E) Personnel Report:

CERTIFIED

▪ Leaves/Resignations/Retirements

1. Tara Curless – ECA Resignation as NPMS 8th Grade Volleyball Coach effective 2025-2026 school year
2. Maria Sobecki - ECA Resignation as NPMS Head 6th Grade Volleyball Coach effective 2025-2026 school year
3. Ron McVay - ECA Resignation as NPMS Assistant 6th Grade Volleyball Coach effective 2025-2026 school year
4. Renee Mischak – ECA Resignation as Olive Twp. Elementary School PLC Leadership Team effective 8/5/2025
5. Hayden Young – FML Leave as NPHS FACS Teacher beginning 1/5/2026 – 4/3/2026
6. Samantha Eldridge – Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary School 3rd Grade Teacher effective 8/22/2025

- **Employment**

- **Employment – Extra-Curricular/Co-Curricular/Ancillary Duties**

1. Tara Curless – NPMS 6th Grade Head Volleyball Coach beginning 2025-2026 school year
2. Cathleen Lower – NPHS Asst. Boys Cross Country Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
3. Rose Brienza – NPMS Spell Bowl Coach beginning 2025-2026 school year
4. Taylor Emmons – Olive Twp. Elementary School Volleyball Coach beginning 2025-2026 school year
5. Taylor Emmons - Olive Twp. Elementary School PLC Leadership Team beginning 2025-2026 school year
6. Jennifer Smith – NPHS HOSA Advisor beginning 2025-2026 school year
7. Jeanne Romstadt – NPHS Senior Class Sponsor for the 2025-2026 school year
8. Jenelle Hembree – Olive Twp. Elementary School PLC Leadership Team Member beginning 2025-2026 school year
9. Aislin Zwierzynski - Olive Twp. Elementary School PLC Leadership Team Member beginning 2025-2026 school year
10. Dylan Olson – NPHS Social Studies Department Head for the 1st semester of the 2025-2026 school year (1/2 stipend)
11. Ryan O'Shea – NPHS Lunchroom Supervisor beginning 2025-2026 school year
12. Kortney Brennan – NPHS National Honor Society Co-Sponsor beginning 2025-2026 school year
13. Jennifer Soos - NPHS National Honor Society Co-Sponsor beginning 2025-2026 school year
14. Jennifer Soos - NPHS New Teacher Mentor for the 2025-2026 school year
15. Kara Mamazza – Rolling Prairie Elementary School New Teacher Mentor for the 2025-2026 school year
16. Kristen Kleist - Rolling Prairie Elementary School New Teacher Mentor for the 2025-2026 school year
17. Melanie Cloonan - Rolling Prairie Elementary School New Teacher Mentor for the 2025-2026 school year
18. Terence Clines – NPHS Robotics Sponsor beginning 2025-2026 school year
19. Angela Ruiz – World Language Department Chair beginning 2025-2026 school year
20. Neil Hackett – NPHS New Teacher Mentor for the 2025-2026 school year
21. Margaret Buss - NPHS New Teacher Mentor for the 2025-2026 school year
22. David McGhee - NPHS New Teacher Mentor for the 2025-2026 school year
23. Christal Wilkeson - NPHS New Teacher Mentor for the 2025-2026 school year

- **Adjustments**

1. Wendy Sundwall to receive a \$400 stipend from the High Ability Grant for completing 2 High Ability trainings over the summer.
2. The following teachers will receive a stipend of \$1,500 from the Career Coaching Grant for duties as a College Bound Cougar Mentor:
 - Jennifer Soos
 - Deana Gregory
 - Terrie Sult
 - Jessica Sinka
 - Joseph Beachey

CLASSIFIED

- **Leaves/Resignations/Retirements**

1. Cheryl Firanek – Resignation as Prairie View Elementary School Custodian effective 7/30/2025
2. Marjorie Young – Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant effective 8/1/2025

3. Angela Walz – Resignation as Olive Twp. Elementary School Instructional Assistant effective 8/6/2025
4. Mandy Kindig - Resignation as Prairie View Elementary School Instructional Assistant effective 8/7/2025
5. Jackson White – Resignation as part-time Custodian at New Prairie Middle School effective 8/15/2025

▪ **Employment**

1. Katelyn Scheffer – Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant start date pending criminal background check results
2. Amy Grad – NPMS Custodian beginning 8/4/2025
3. Courtney Krout – Nutritional Services Part-Time Worker beginning 8/4/2025
4. Jacqueline Shore – Nutritional Services Full-Time beginning 8/4/2025
5. Renee Chojnacki – Prairie View Elementary School Health Aide beginning 8/8/2025
6. Sarrah Bonner – Olive Twp. Elementary School Instructional Assistant beginning 8/18/2025
7. Darla Vondrasek – Prairie View Elementary School Custodian beginning 8/25/2025
8. Kaylee Smith – Olive Twp. Elementary School Instructional Assistant pending criminal background check results

▪ **Employment – Extra Curricular**

1. Ben Wiginton – NPMS 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
2. Justin Land – NPMS Robotics Coach for the 2025-2026 school year pending criminal background check results
3. Kasey Conklin – NPMS Asst. Football Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
4. Clem Litka – NPHS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
5. Thomas Mannen – NPHS Head Girls Golf Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
6. Monique Fredline – NPHS Drama Club Sponsor for the 2025-2026 school year
7. Ross Strieter – NPMS 8th Grade Volleyball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
8. Alyssa Staley – NPMS 7th Grade Volleyball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
9. Randi Ames – NPMS 7th Grade Asst. Volleyball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
10. Tabetha Heddens – Prairie View Elementary Volleyball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year pending criminal background check results
11. Amber Oldham – Rolling Prairie Elementary School Volleyball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
12. Dan Luther – NPHS Co-Freshman Football Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
13. Sarah Woodrick – NPHS Asst. Girls Swim Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
14. Brandee Helms – NPMS 6th Grade Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year pending criminal background check results

• **Adjustments**

1. Erin Jenkins to receive a \$400 stipend from the McKinney-Vento Grant for having 2 McKinney-Vento family events over the summer.
2. Aubrey Hall – Prairie View Elementary School instructional Assistant to voluntarily transfer to Olive Twp. Elementary School Instructional Assistant. Start date pending criminal background check results.
3. Kala Gerencser – NPMS Nutritional Services Worker to receive a .50 per hour wage increase due to an increase in duties effective 8/4/2025.
4. Kelly Goufas – Olive Twp. Elementary Custodian to transfer to New Prairie Middle School Custodian beginning 8/25/2025

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Dr. White shared that he sent out an emailed communication to families, staff and teachers regarding the 3 public meetings this fall. The public meetings will be held on the following dates: September 8th at the NPHS Auditorium, beginning at 6:00 p.m. CST; September 22nd at Olive Twp. Elementary School following the regular Board Meeting that begins at 6:00 p.m.

CST, and October 27th at Prairie View Elementary School following the regular Board that begins at 6:00 p.m. CST. The purpose of the meetings will be to engage the public in a straight forward dialogue regarding the economic development in Olive Township, questions/concerns that have been shared by the community, and discuss the potential impact on the school system and options available. Dr. White stated that the themes of focus during the presentation at the public meetings will include:

- Recent enrollment trends at all NPUSC schools
- Report of NPUSC enrollment data (including in-district/out of district transfers data)
- Overview of NPUSC yearly budget revenue tied to enrollment
- Report on building classroom utilization rates by school building
- Information sharing related to known and potential housing growth in Olive Township
- Presentation of potential options and challenges in the event NPUSC needs more facility space at the elementary level to meet future enrollment needs

Dr. White concluded that these meetings will be broadcast via

[YouTube.com/@npuscboardmeetings](https://www.youtube.com/@npuscboardmeetings)

- Dr. White highlighted the very generous donations that will be Board accepting tonight. First Dr. White thanked and stated that Howmet Corporation granted \$50,000 to NPUSC for STEM Empowerment. Dr. White also thanked Amazon, Indiana University and Grand Canyon University for their generous grant of \$65,000 for a College Readiness Initiative for 1st generation college students.

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board accepted the following Donations with gratitude:
- Olive Twp. Elementary School received generous donations of school supplies from:
 - American Legion in New Carlisle
 - Millers Merry Manor in New Carlisle
 - Tenneco Inc. of South Bend
 - NPHS Athletic Department received a monetary donation in honor of James Williamson from Robert Beck of Cromwell, IN
 - NPUSC received a donation of \$65,000 from Amazon for Career Exploration Activities
 - NPHS received a grant of \$50,000 from Howmet Aerospace Foundation for STEM programming
 - NPUSC received a donation of \$3,432.70 from Amazon for the First Teacher Day breakfast
- (B) The Board approved and adopted the 2nd Reading of Updated Board Policies as follows:
- Bylaw 0166.1 - Consent Agenda (Revised)
 - Bylaw 0167.2 – Executive Session (Revised)
 - Po 1216 – Dress and Appearance (Revised)
 - Po 3216 - Dress and Appearance (Revised)
 - Po 4216 - Dress and Appearance (Revised)
 - Po 5511 - Dress and Appearance (Revised)
 - Po 1220 – Employment of the Superintendent (Revised)
 - Po 2131 V1 – Educational Outcomes for Students (Rescinded)
 - Po 2131 V2 – Educational Outcomes for students (Revised), now known as Policy 2131 – Educational Outcome for Students
 - Po 2210 – Curriculum Development (Technical Correction & Updates)
 - Po 2221 – Mandatory Curriculum (Revised)
 - Po 2340 – Field and Other Corporation-Sponsored Trips (Replacement)
 - Po 2370 – Educational Options (Revised)
 - Po 2370.02 – Flex Program (Revised)
 - Po 2411 – Guidance & Counseling (Revised)
 - Po 2421 – Career & Technical Education Program (Revised)
 - Po 2623 – Student Assessment (Revised)

- Po 2700 – Annual Performance Report (Rescinded)
 - Po 3120 – Employment of Professional Staff (Revised)
 - Po 4120 – Employment of Support Staff (Revised)
 - Po 3120.02 – Adjunct Teachers (Revised)
 - Po 3120.11 – Public Hearing Before Commencement of Collective Bargaining and Public Meeting Before Ratification of Tentative Agreement (Revised)
 - Po 3142 – Cancellation of a Teaching Contract (Revised)
 - Po 4213.01 – Staff-Student Relations (Technical Correction)
 - Po 5111 – Determination of Legal Settlement and Eligibility for Enrollment of Students Without Legal Settlement in the Corporation; Proof of Indiana Residency (Revised)
 - Po 5310 – Health Services (Technical Correction)
 - Po 5330 – Use of Medication (Revised)
 - Po 5410 – Promotion, Placement, and Retention (Revised)
 - Po 5460 – Graduation Requirements (Revised)
 - Po 5462 – Retaking a Class (Revised)
 - Po 5517.01 – Bullying (Revised)
 - Po 5540 – The Schools and Law Enforcement Agencies (Replacement Policy)
 - Po 5540.01 – Investigations by the Department of Child Services (New Policy)
 - Po 5540.02 – The Schools and Governmental Agencies (New Policy)
 - Po 6111 – Internal Control Standards and Procedures (Revised)
 - Po 6116 – Time and Effort Reporting (Revised)
 - Po 6151 – Bad Checks and Uncollectable Debts (Revised)
 - Po 6230 – Budget Hearing (Revised)
 - Po 7300 – Disposition of Real Property (Revised)
 - Po 7310 – Disposition of Surplus Property (Technical Correction)
 - Po 7430 – Safety Standards (Revised)
 - Po 7440.01 – Electronic Monitoring and Recording (Revised)
 - Po 7455 – Accounting System for Capital Assets (Revised)
 - Po 8120 – Volunteers (Revised)
 - Po 8121 – Personal Background Check – Contracted Services (Revised)
 - Po 8330 – Student Records (Revised)
 - Po 8400 – School Safety Information (Technical Correction)
 - Po 8405 – Environmental Health and Safety Issues – Indoor Air Quality, Animals in the Classroom, and Idling Vehicles on School Property (Revised)
 - Po 8451 – Parasitic Infestation (Head Lice, Bed Bugs) (Revised)
 - Po 8500 – Food Service Program (Replacement Policy)
 - Po 8510 – Wellness (Revised)
 - Po 8540 – Vending Machines – (Rescinded)
 - Po 8640 – Transportation for Field and Other Corporation-Sponsored Trips (Revised)
 - Po 9150 – School Visitors (Revised)
 - Po 9160 – Public Attendance at School Events (Revised)
 - Po 8606 – Bus Drivers and Cellular Telephone Use (NPUSC Revised)
 - Po 5421 – Grading (NPUSC Revised)
- (C) The Board approved the Memorandum Of Understanding between New Prairie High School and Ivy Tech Community College, Valparaiso Campus for Dual Credit
- (D) The Board approved an Overnight Field Trip Request
- (E) The Board approved Activity Bus Replacement
- (F) The Board approved Concrete Work at Rolling Prairie Elementary School
- (G) The Board approved Outside Extended Criminal History Background Checks For The 2025-26 School Year
- (H) The Board approved the Closure of Grade 5 to Transfer Students at Prairie View Elementary and Rolling Prairie Elementary Schools for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- (A) 1st Reading & Discussion of Updated Board Policy 2430 – Corporation Sponsored Clubs and Activities. There were no questions or discussion on the updated policy from the Board. The policy will be online at the corporation website for public review starting August 26th.

BOARD COMMENTS.

- Mrs. Smith welcomed everyone back to the new school year and wished everyone a great year.
- Mr. King reminded everyone that the public Work Session will be September 8th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. King asked if the Board had any further business. The Board had no further business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.