

Board Notes
August 4, 2025

The regular meeting of the School Board was held at 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 4, 2025 at New Prairie United School Corporation Central Office in the Board Room with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Jason DeMeyer, Mrs. Jill Smith, Mr. Rich Gadacz and Mr. Rich Shail present. Dr. Paul White, NPUSC Superintendent, was also present.

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

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

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved Consent Items as follows:

(A) Personnel Report as follows:

CERTIFIED

▪ **Leaves/Resignations/Retirements**

1. Jillian Matzke – Resignation as Olive Twp. Elementary School Third Grade Teacher effective 7/22/2025
2. Catherine Saylor – FMLA Leave as Olive Twp. Elementary/Prairie View Elementary Art Teacher beginning 8/25/2025 through 10/7/2025
3. Tina Trojanowski – Intermittent FMLA Leave as Prairie View Elementary 1st Grade Teacher beginning 8/5/2025 through 8/4/2026
4. Erin White – Resignation as NPHS ELA Teacher effective 7/23/2025

▪ **Employment**

1. Sydney Zeier – NPHS ELA Teacher beginning 2025-2026 school year pending criminal background check results
2. Zoe Zesinger – Prairie View Elementary Guidance Counselor beginning 2025-2026 school year pending criminal background check results
3. Maya Williams – Rolling Prairie Elementary Guidance Counselor beginning 2025-2026 school year pending criminal background check results

▪ **Adjustments**

1. Shannon McBride NPMS ELA Teacher, to receive a \$600 stipend from the High Ability Grant for completing 3 High Ability trainings over the summer.
2. The following teachers will receive Grants from the Education Foundation for classroom supplies, resources, and professional development. Grant awards range from \$200 up to \$500:
 - Jeff Meinhard
 - Laura Schreiber
 - Cassie Pavey
 - Shelly Deckard
 - Britney Kreighbaum
 - Adriane Hurt/David McGhee-split
 - Jon Schroeder
 - Ron McVay
 - Kara Mamazza
 - Amy Schilla
 - Heather O'Connell
 - Sarah Binder
 - Veronica DeBone
 - Rachel Ralston
 - Kate VanPelt
 - Carinda Knefely
 - Mikayla Golden
 - Kim Stepp
3. Kari McLaughlin, NPMS ELA Teacher, to receive an \$800 Stipend for completing 4 online High Ability Professional Development modules pd from the HA Grant.

NON-CERTIFIED

▪ Leaves/Resignations/Retirements

1. Sandra Kleine – Intermittent FMLA Leave as NPUSC Bus Driver beginning 5/21/2025 through 5/20/2026
2. Bronson Ellenwine – Intermittent FMLA Leave as Building Tech at NPMS beginning 7/22/2025 through 1/22/2026

▪ Employment

1. Stephanie Leffert – Prairie View Elementary School Library Assistant starting 8/7/2025 pending criminal background check results
2. Aubrey Hall - Prairie View Elementary School Instructional Assistant starting 8/7/2025 pending criminal background check results
3. Hannah Shoue – Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant starting 8/7/2025 pending criminal background check results

▪ Employment – Extra Curricular

1. Eric Lower – NPHS Diving Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
2. Michael Nelson – NPMS Asst. Football Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
3. Derrick Smous - NPMS Asst. Football Coach for the 2025-2026 school year pending criminal background check results
4. John Pemberton - NPMS Asst. Football Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
5. Brock Sinka – NPMS Asst. Football Coach for the 2025-2026 school year pending criminal background check results
6. Katlyn Reyes - NPMS Asst. Football Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
7. Ryan Curless – NPHS JV Baseball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
8. Ryan Curless – NPHS Asst. Varsity Tennis Coach for the 2025-2026 school year
9. Ryan Curless – NPHS JV Girls Basketball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year

▪ Adjustments

1. Mindy Henke, Prairie View Elementary Health Aide, to voluntarily transfer to NPMS as Health Aide effective 8/4/2025

REPORTS

- Dr. White highlighted that professional staff returns on Tuesday, August 5th, students return on Thursday, August 7th. Dr. White reminded everyone that open houses begin Tuesday evening at the secondary levels then the 3 elementary levels are Wednesday evening.
- Dr. White then reminded everyone of the school calendar change that this coming Friday, August 8th, is **not** a late start Friday. School will begin at its normal hours.
- Dr. White shared that both himself and NPUSC school board members have received many questions from the community about the future of Olive Elementary given the Amazon and battery plant developments, and with it, likely in-district housing growth. NPUSC is going to host a series of meetings this fall to engage the entire NPUSC community in straight forward dialogue about NPUSC enrollment trends, current building enrollments and utilization, and potential long-term options for strategic planning to maximize current NPUSC facilities and taxpayer funds.

The first meeting will take place Sept 8th at the NPHS Auditorium at 6 pm central time. This meeting will include a straightforward presentation about the current facts of the situation and include an initial opportunity for the NPUSC School Board to hear questions and community input. Follow up meetings will occur later in September and October at both Prairie View and Olive Elementary Schools with additional opportunities to hear the presentation and community input. A more detailed communication with all meeting dates will be published later in August.

After the series of public input meetings, the NPUSC School Board will make any final determinations by early 2026

ACTION ITEMS

- (A) The Board approved the Request to Advertise “Notice of Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget”
- (B) The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County and New Prairie United School Corporation for the 2025-2026 School Year
- (C) The Board approved the NPUSC Technology Transition from VMware VxRail to Hyper-V Infrastructure

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. DeMeyer welcomed everyone back to begin the new school year.
- Mrs. Smith wished everyone a great school year.
- Mr. King stated that the next Board meeting will be August 25th, at the Central Office in the Board Room beginning at 6:00 pm CST which will include a school budget presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. King asked if the Board had any further business. The Board had no further business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.