

Board Notes

May 18, 2026

The regular meeting of the School Board was held Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. CST, at New Prairie High School in the Amazon "Think Big" Classroom with Mr. Phil King, Mr. Jason DeMeyer, Mrs. Jill Smith, and 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 Mr. DeMeyer, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the Agenda. The Agenda was approved 5-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board approved Consent Items

- (A) Minutes – April 27, 2026
- (B) Financial Reports
- (C) Claims
- (D) Payroll
- (E) Personnel Report

CERTIFIED

▪ **Leaves/Resignations/Retirement**

1. Nicole Paull – ECA Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary Math Bowl Sponsor and Rolling Prairie Elementary Leadership Team Member (Guiding Coalition) effective 6/30/2026
2. Cheryl Karczewski - ECA Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary Leadership Team Member (Guiding Coalition) effective 6/30/2026
3. Heather O'Connell - ECA Resignation as Olive Twp. Elementary Leadership Team Member (Guiding Coalition) effective 6/30/2026
4. Daniel Reffo – Intermittent FMLA Leave as Olive Twp./Prairie View Elementary Schools PE Teacher beginning 4/14/2026 through 5/26/2026
5. Terence Clines – ECA Resignation as Robotic Coach effective 5/1/2026
6. Kristen Barden – ECA Resignation as NPMS Yearbook Sponsor effective 6/30/2026
7. Susan Kozumplik – ECA Resignation as NPMS Spirit Club Sponsor effective 6/30/2026
8. Madison Paholski – Resignation as Summer School 2026 IREAD Remediation Program Teacher

▪ **Employment**

1. Clay Kain – New Prairie Middle School 8th Grade Math Teacher beginning 7/1/2026

▪ **Employment – Co. & Extra-Curricular, and Summer 2026**

1. Erin Mooneyhan – Prairie View Elementary School Guiding Coalition Member beginning School year 2025-2026, Semester 2
2. Catherine Saylor – Olive Twp. Elementary School Guiding Coalition Member beginning 7/1/2026
3. Kristen Barden – NPMS Academic Superbowl Sponsor beginning 7/1/2026
4. Chuck Halberstadt – Rolling Prairie Elementary School Guiding Coalition Member beginning 7/1/2026
5. Carinda Knefely - Rolling Prairie Elementary School Guiding Coalition Member beginning 7/1/2026
6. Jarret Spence - Rolling Prairie Elementary School Guiding Coalition Member beginning 7/1/2026

▪ **Adjustments**

1. Catherine Saylor to receive her Grant Funded Stipend of \$2,500 for her job as High Ability Coordinator for 2nd semester of 2025-2026 school year.

CLASSIFIED

▪ **Leaves/Resignations/Retirement**

1. Debra Lipps – Retirement as NPUSC Bus Driver effective 5/22/2026
2. Bronson Ellenwine – Resignation as NPMS Building Technician effective 6/5/2026
3. Rene Lester – Termination as Prairie View Elementary School Instructional Assistant effective 4/30/2026
4. Katelynn Scheffer – Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant effective 5/22/2026
5. Shannon Dance - Resignation as Rolling Prairie Elementary School Instructional Assistant effective 5/22/2026
6. Sandra Kleine – Intermittent FMLA Leave as Bus Driver beginning 5/21/2026 through 5/21/2027

▪ **Employment**

1. Jensen Lange – Prairie View Elementary School Health Aide beginning 2026-2027 school year pending criminal background check results
2. Greg Nyikos – NPMS Building Technician starting 5/19/2026
3. Ann Nelson – NPUSC Custodian at Olive Twp. Elementary starting 5/4/2026

▪ **Employment – Co. & Extra-Curricular, and Summer 2026**

1. Nevaeh Krycka – Summer 2026 Technology Help beginning 5/22/2026
2. Nicholas Rollins – Student Summer 2026 Technology Help beginning 5/26/2026
3. Lee Gustafson - Student Summer 2026 Technology Help beginning 5/26/2026

▪ **Adjustments**

1. Technology Summer Help hourly rate increased from \$11 per hour to \$13 per hour effective 5/26/26
2. Food Service Substitute pay rate increased from \$11 per hour to \$14 per hour effective 5/01/26.

REPORTS

(A) Superintendent's Report

- Dr. White highlighted the Amazon “Think Big” room at the High School which is the first one of its kind in Indiana. It was an excellent and exciting day in this space with students from the schools coming through and working with Amazon employees with a variety of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math activities. Dr. White also pointed out the new Podcast Studio as well. Dr. White thanked Amazon for their generosity in giving back to the community by investing in the future of our students.
- Dr. White mentioned that today was the Senior Awards Program which Mr. Heinold, High School Principal, teachers and counselors have made it an elevated event everyone looks forward to. Dr. White thanked the staff for their hard work putting the presentation together. It has been quite the exciting day at New Prairie.

ACTION ITEMS

(A) The Board accepted the following donations

- Heston Hills Event Center, Tim & Jackie Ohlund, donated the room charge and a discount toward the food for the NPHS Top Ten Dinner valued at \$2,255
- NPHS FFA Chapter received a donation of \$150 from D.A.Dodd
- Amazon donated the following grant awards to NPUSC:
 - \$100,000 for the “Think Big Space” located at New Prairie High School
 - \$50,000 for career exploration field trips, career fair and other career related activities

- NPUSC, in partnership with the South Bend Regional Chamber of Commerce, was awarded the second round of the Career Coaching Grant from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. From this grant, NPUSC received \$50,000 for career exploration and career coaching-related activities.
 - NPUSC Angel Fund received a donation of \$100 from Renee Millar in memory of Ron Szczypiorski
 - Olive Twp. Elementary School received a donation of \$29.15 from the Hudson Lake Mennonite Church
- (B) The Board approved the Purchase Agreement of the Sale of Land to the Town of New Carlisle *(2.5 acres of wooded, sloped ground southwest of Olive Elementary between the Olive Football Field and Edge of the Woods subdivision- sale price \$54,000)*
- (C) The Board approved Overnight Field Trip Requests
- (D) The Board approved the Operation Agreement with LaPorte County Career & Technical Education for 2026-2027 school year
- (E) The Board approved the NIESC Shared Dietitian Consortium Service Contract for the 2026-2027 school year
- (F) The Board approved the NIESC School Nutrition Consultant Agreement for 2026-2027 school year
- (G) The Board approved the Renewal of Follett Destiny Library Management & Services for all NPUSC Buildings for the 2026-2027 School Year
- (H) The Board approved the Renewal of FinalForms Student & Activity Registration Services for all Buildings for the 2026-2027 School Year
- (I) The Board approved the Updated, Revised Transportation Employee Handbook beginning 2026-2027 School Year

BOARD COMMENT

- Mrs. Smith stated that it has been a great year.
- Mr. Gadacz thanked Amazon for all they have done for New Prairie.
- Mr. Shail thanked the administration, teachers and staff for another great year at New Prairie. Mr. Shail then expressed his deepest thanks to the people who made last Friday night so special by honoring him with his name being tied to the Baseball/Softball pavilion. He went on to thank the New Prairie School Board, the Superintendent, the New Prairie Diamond Club, the New Prairie Athletic Department and the New Prairie Baseball Program. Mr. Shail explained that he was totally honored and humbled by the whole program the other night. Mr. Shail concluded that this is a great place to live and a great place to go to school.
- Mr. King congratulated all the seniors graduating, stating he enjoyed watching the program this morning and hearing all our senior student accomplishments. Mr. King reminded everyone that Graduation Day will be Sunday, June 7th at 2:00 p.m. CST at Amzie Miller field weather permitting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. King asked if the Board had any further business. The Board had no further business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.