

**PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8**  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
OPEN SESSION

December 17, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Prairie Central Community Unit School District No. 8, Ford, Livingston, and McLean Counties, was held on December 17, 2015 and was called to order by President Patricia Haberkorn at 7:01 PM in the Prairie Central CUSD #8 Unit Office Conference Room.

Board members present: Jeffrey Austman, Jason Dotterer, Patricia Haberkorn, Timothy McGreal, Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, and Ann Steidinger

Board members absent: None

Administrators present: Dr. John Capasso, Superintendent; Daniel Casillas, Prairie Central High School Principal; and Tonya Dieken, Prairie Central Junior High School Principal

Employees or PCEA present: Rebecca Casson, Nicole Joiner, Glenda Knauer, Jennifer Steidinger, Barb Taylor, and Debbie Vaughan

Students present: None

Guests present: Rep. Dan Brady (105<sup>th</sup>), David Hammer, and Bob Walter

Press present: Kent Casson, *The Blade*

Public Comment

Mr. Brady wished the Board well and heard concerns about legislation and pending legislation affecting schools.

Visitors Arranged in Advance

None

General Action

To approve minutes                      Moved by Austman and seconded by Dotterer that we approve minutes for the November 17, 2015 regular meeting as presented.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To approve consent agenda              Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we approve the consent agenda, which includes: Activity fund report, bills (current and interim), booster proposals, café report, financial report/summary, investment schedule, and treasurer's report.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Special Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Hammer and Mr. Walter, representing Prairie Lands Foundation, presented a check for \$6,000 to President Haberkorn to support after-school programs in Chatsworth and Chenoa. The two gentlemen also shared information and fielded questions about the Foundation, its mission, function, and its subsidiary foundations and memorials. The Board is considering the development of a foundation under 501 ( c ) (3) for large-scale projects and purchases in the areas of education, athletics, and fine arts; and took the opportunity to gather information about the possibility of including its prospective foundation in PLF.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Capasso reported on the following:

- ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS & COMMENTARY.

HB 691 & SB 318. These measures are now being considered by the General Assembly and propose to freeze property values for a two-year period, which would cost the District approximately \$478,000 (based on average new dollars/year) in property taxes.

Every Child Succeeds. The U.S. Congress has reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and, in so doing, has replaced “No Child Left Behind” with “Every Student Succeeds”; has confirmed the continuance of assessments for grade 3-11, with science added; and has replaced AYP with goal-setting and monitoring of interim progress.

State budget. The State budget is still not approved, delaying categorical payments. Only general state aid and a single grant payment have been received by PC since July 1. Since FY11, the State has prorated general state aid and transportation reimbursement, resulting in a loss to the District of ~\$3.4 Million.

- FINANCE

Tax abatement request. Invenergy is considering a gas-fired electricity generation plant north-east of Chenoa, outside the boundaries of the TIF district. It is likely the company will seek property tax abatement from Prairie Central.

Enterprise zones. The Greater Livingston County Economic Development Council is applying for enterprise zones in several locations, including Fairbury, Forrest, and Chatsworth. The State of Illinois waives certain taxes for industries in enterprise zones, including sales tax.

- ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Curriculum councils. Curriculum councils have discussed a number of items, including supportive software.

Meadowbrook closure, attendance centers. Preparations for attendance centers are on-going and include enrollment projections, program determinations, staffing needs, logistics (library materials, playgrounds, technology, maintenance projects), and transportation.

After-school programs. The Boys and Girls Club of Prairie Central will keep the Chatsworth program open for the remainder of the year, owing in part to a donation from the District of \$10,000 from the Title I grant.

- CSFT

Revenues & expenditures. PC has collected \$1,352,473.64 in sales tax to-date, and spent \$957,010.36 in categories of technology infrastructure, health/life-safety, security/telecommunications, and pay-as-you-go OBM.

- TRANSPORTATION

Fleet replacement. The Board learned that the District’s aging bus fleet can be replaced through funding bonds, with slightly more than \$100,000 in interest over three years for 18 vehicles. Given the limitations of State funding, on which public schools rely heavily for purchasing new equipment, this may be the only option to replace a large portion of the fleet, which averages >200,000 miles per vehicle. Board member McGreal and others expressed interest in pursuing propane engines in at least some of the prospective vehicles, citing better per-gallon pricing and the availability of government incentives for environment-friendly emissions.

Discussion (Old Business)

None

Discussion (New Business)

Foundation

The Board decided to deliberate further on the formation of its three-way foundation, and a partnership with Prairie Lands.

Action - Old Business

To approve 2015 levy:

Education fund

Moved by Steffen and seconded by Austman that we hereby certify, under 105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$7,119,498** to be levied as a special tax for **educational** purposes.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Operations & maintenance fund

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by McGreal that we hereby certify, under 105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$1,078,712** to be levied as a special tax for **operations & maintenance** purposes.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Transportation fund

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Austman that we hereby certify, under 105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$431,485** to be levied as a special tax for **transportation** purposes.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Working cash fund

Moved by Austman and seconded by Steffen that we hereby certify, under 105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$107,871** to be levied as a special tax for a **working cash** fund.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Municipal retirement fund

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we hereby certify, under 105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$393,320** to be levied as a special tax for **municipal retirement** purposes.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Social security fund

Moved by McGreal and seconded by Dotterer that we hereby certify, under 105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$393,320** to be levied as a special tax for **social security** purposes.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Fire prevention, safety, etc. fund

Moved by Austman and seconded by Slagel that we hereby certify, under 105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$107,871** to be levied as a special tax for **fire prevention, safety, energy conservation, disabled accessibility, school security, and specified repair** purposes.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Tort immunity fund

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Steffen that we hereby certify, under 105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$740,363** to be levied as a special tax for **tort immunity** purposes.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Special education fund

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Steffen that we hereby certify, under

105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$86,297** to be levied as a special tax for **special education** purposes.  
 Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Other (lease) fund

Moved by McGreal and seconded by Austman that we hereby certify, under 105 ILCS 5/17-1, that we require the sum of **\$107,871** to be levied as a special tax for **leasing of educational facilities or computer technology or both, and temporary relocation expense** purposes.  
 Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Action – New Business

To acknowledge Report Card

Moved by Slagel and seconded by McGreal that we acknowledge the 2015 Illinois District Report Card and place it on the Prairie Central CUSD #8 website for viewing by parents and the general public under 105 ILCS 5/10-17a.  
 Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Executive Session

To enter executive session

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Austman that we enter into executive session at 9:22 PM for purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel (5 ILCS 120/2 ( c )(1)).  
 Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To return to open session

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Austman that we return to open session at 11:42 PM.  
 Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Action on Personnel

To accept resignations from:

Name	Position/Site	Effective	Motion by	Second by	Voting							Result
					Austman	Dotterer	Haberkorn	McGreal	Slagel	Steffen	Steidinger	
Kevin Murphy	Bus driver/District	12/31/15	Dotterer	Slagel	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Carried
Becky Barker	Parapro/PCJHS	Retire after 2016-17	Haberkorn	Austman	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Carried

To appoint:

Laura Aberle	Parapro/CWE, MBE	2015-16	McGreal	Haberkorn	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Carried
Bill Casner	Auxiliary wrestling coach/PCJHS	2015-16 season	Austman	Slagel	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Carried
Jeff Bergstrahl	Auxiliary wrestling coach/PCJHS	2015-16 season	Dotterer	McGreal	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Carried

To assign administrators for 2016-17

Moved by McGreal and seconded by Dotterer that we approve the following administrative assignments in 2016-17: Dr. **John Capasso** (Superintendent), **Dan Casillas** (PCHS Principal), **Tonya Dieken** (PCJHS Principal), **James DeMay** (PCUE Principal), **Paula Crane** (Prairie Central Elementary Principal), **Dan Groce** (Prairie Central Early Learning Center-West Principal), **Karen Hazelrigg** (Prairie Central Early Learning Center-

East Principal), **Amber Buss** (Director of Special Education), and **Trish Paulson** (Program Supervisor & Special Liaison to Special Education Co-op-LCSSU, funded entirely by IDEA grant and co-op contract).  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To reduce personnel budget for 2016-17

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Steffen that we approve a budget reduction plan in the amount of approximately \$1.3 Million for the 2016-17 school term: 18.75 FTE certified staff positions (11.00 resulting from Meadowbrook closure), 6.00 FTE ESP positions (all resulting from Meadowbrook closure), 15.50 FTE extra-duty positions (all 7-12), and salary/benefit savings resulting from retirement.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

General Action  
To adjourn

Moved by Austman and seconded by Dotterer that we adjourn at 11:47 PM.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

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President

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Secretary