

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

September 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 September 17, 2015 and was called to order by President Patricia Haberkorn at 7:03 PM in the Prairie Central CUSD #8 Unit Office Conference Room.

Board members present: Jeffrey Austman (arrived, 7:10 PM), Jason Dotterer, Patricia Haberkorn, Timothy McGreal (arrived, 7:04 PM), Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, and Ann Steidinger

Board members absent: None

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

Employees or PCEA present: Cheryl Hoffman, Chief of Business Operations; Angie Kratochvil, PCEA President; Scott Saffer, PCJHS Science Teacher

Students present: None

Guests present: Brian Hansen

Press present: Kent Casson, *The Blade*

Public Comment

None

Visitors Arranged in Advance

None

General Action

To approve minutes

| Meeting | Motion | Second | Voting | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|---------|--------|---------|------------|-----|
| | | | Austman | Dotterer | Haberkorn | McGreal | Slagel | Steffen | Steidinger | |
| 8/20/15 Regular Motion carried | Slagel | Dotterer | Abs | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| 9/8/15 Special Motion carried | Dotterer | Slagel | Abs | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| 9/15/15 Special Motion carried | McGreal | Steffen | Abs | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea |

To approve consent agenda Moved by Steffen 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, abst; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Capasso reported on the following:

- o ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS & COMMENTARY

Board member training. Capasso informed the Board that the Regional Office of Education is offering a session on mandatory trainings (as per PA 97-0008) at its Bloomington headquarters on October 22.

House Bill 691. This bill proposes to limit property tax extensions to 0% in tax years 2016 and 2017. Final action has now been pushed back for the third time, to September 30. Its “sister” bill, SB 318, has already been approved. If made enacted, Prairie Central’s ability to tax will be limited by approximately \$478,000.

PA 94-456. This measure places a number of restrictions on suspensions and expulsions, beginning with the 2016-17 school term. The act is considered problematic, possibly costly (in-school supervision, tutoring), and contrary to previous stances the legislature has taken.

State budget. At meeting time, the State budget had not been approved, leaving a question about the proration level for general state aid and the categoricals. For Prairie Central’s budgeting purposes, Capasso reported that he assumed state aid will be prorated at 92%; special education and transportation, at 100% of the calculated amounts; and that only 75% of payments for special education and transportation would be received in the fiscal year.

o FINANCE

Categoricals. Capasso reported that, due to the budget stand-off in Springfield, categoricals have been slow in arriving. If proration stands at current assumptions, PC will close the gap of loss since FY11 by approximately \$200,000 (to roughly \$1.6 Million). However, he also calculated the amount Prairie Central has lost in just prorated general state aid since that time: \$2.7 Million.

o BUILDING/GROUNDS

Westview roof. Capasso reported that the Westview roof was essentially done, but a leaking downspout still needed attention. After its repair and an inspection by the architect and bonding company, the job will be declared complete.

o OTHER

6th day enrollment. Prairie Central’s enrollment stood at 2,038 on the 6th day of school, compared to 2,153 on the same date in 2014. Enrollment, since FY05 – the annexation of Chenoa CUSD #9, has declined by 299.

A.L.I.C.E. training. Capasso asked the Board to consider allowing A.L.I.C.E. training to become part of PC’s emergency preparedness. The Board requested that a training officer from the Livingston County Sheriff’s department attend the next meeting to share information and answer questions.

Meadowbrook considerations. Capasso shared a list of considerations and deadlines for the closing of Meadowbrook Elementary at year’s end and the re-arrangement of children for the following year. On the matter of a curriculum director, discussed as a possibility, a comment was made by PCEA president Kratochvil that such a position could help coordinate software training, now hit-and-miss.

Budget hearing

To enter budget hearing

Moved by Austman and seconded by Dotterer that we enter into the budget hearing under 105 ILCS 5/17-1 at 8:10 PM.

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

Superintendent Capasso shared a power point presentation on the FY16 budget and offered projections and recommendations.

To return to open session

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we return to open session at 8:34 PM.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Lilah Stotler | Café worker (3 hrs/day)/PCHS | 2015-16 | Austman | Dotterer | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Carried |
| Jeff Whitmore | Aux boys basketball coach/ PCJHS | 2015-16 | Steffen | Slagel | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Carried |
| Karen Volk | Paraprofessional/ PCJHS | 2015-16 | McGreal | Steidinger | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Yea | Carried |

General Action

To adjourn

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Steffen that we adjourn at 10:30 PM.
 Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; McGreal, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

President

Secretary