

Last night, July 16, 2015, during its regularly-scheduled meeting, the Prairie Central Board of Education . . .

Recognized the attendance of

-Board members Patricia Haberkorn, Ann Steidinger, Mark Slagel, Jason Dotterer, Tim McGreal, and Corey Steffen.

-Guests Barb Taylor, Teresa Palen, Chris Wilder, Pamela Weeks, and Joni BesGrove.

Took general action to

-Approve the minutes of its June 18, 2015 regular meeting; and its June 29, June 30, and July 6, 2015 special meetings.

-Approve the consent agenda - activity fund report, bills (current & interim), booster proposals, cafe report, financial report, financial summary, investment report, and treasurer's report.

Heard the Superintendent's report and learned/was reminded that

-House Bill 691 will be up for a vote on July 31. It would apply PTELL (property tax extension limitation law) to all public schools, with the "extension limitation" set at zero (0). Capasso expressed that the significant loss in state funding coupled with a suppression of property taxation would create an untenable financial situation for most downstate schools, including Prairie Central.

-As of June 30, the end of the fiscal year, the State had failed to reimburse the District \$372,657 in categoricals. Further, as of the same date, Prairie Central had lost \$1.8 Million in State and Federal revenue.

-Fund balances at fiscal year's end reflected a significant presence of working cash bond issuance and transfer. The education fund, without working cash, ended with a balance of \$(981,356); transportation, \$(436,693). These two funds are heavily reliant on state monies and have suffered the most in wake of the State's funding crisis.

-The estimated general state aid entitlement for the coming year, now expected to be prorated at 92% (up from 87%) reflects a net gain over the current year of \$35,712. The figure would be larger, but a loss of 33 students in average daily (student) attendance, a key factor in the formula, will minimize the gain. Since the property tax extension, announced at an earlier meeting, will introduce only \$122,395 into the system, the net "new money" expected for next year from the District's two principal revenue sources will be approximately \$158,107, woefully inadequate to keep pace with rising costs.

-Tech coordinator Phil Tetley is preparing the new website and hopes to activate it before the start of school.

-\$205,000 of Title I money will be designated for the purchase of student computers.

-The Westview Elementary roof project is roughly 40% complete. The weather and some unexpected glitches have hampered operations, but the final inspection is still expected before August 20. The PCUE remodeling project (dividing of space in the old home ec area) lacks only paint; chimney reduction/flue/tuckpointing work at Chenoa is complete; the security locks will be installed on all interior doors by the start of school; installation of shatter-proof glass will begin July 20 and be finished in early August; and cleaning operations are on schedule.

-Informational meetings on the closure of Meadowbrook Elementary School and the establishment of attendance centers for PK/ECSE-4 will continue July 20 and 27.

-Work on a 501 (c) (3) application for an educational/athletic/music foundation has begun. A meeting is to take place with attorneys in the next couple of weeks.

Conducted/considered old business, by

-Approving the tentative fiscal year 2016 budget, placing it on display (unit office and on website) for no fewer than 30 days, and scheduling September 17, 2015 as the date for the required hearing and final approval.

-Assigning Board committee membership for the coming year.

-Approving Board goals for 2015-16.

Conducted/considered new business, by

-Approving a Resolution Reference Occupational Sales Tax Revenue (for the Regional Office of Education to act as distributor of funds).

-Accepting the annual transportation report as presented by Pam Weeks, coordinator.

-Approving the purchase of a 2007 77-passenger Blue Bird bus, for the purpose of transporting students, at a cost of \$8,000.

-Approving the purchase of a 2001 Chevrolet Silverado 3/4-ton pick-up truck, for purposes of pulling the marching band trailer and maintenance, at a cost of \$12,620.

-Accepting the annual food services report as presented by Joni BesGrove, coordinator.

Entered/exited executive session for the purposes (exceptions to the Open Meetings Act) of

-Personnel and collective bargaining

Made personnel decisions to

-Accept the resignations of Kathy Anderson (as secretary @ Chatsworth Elementary, effective following the 2014-15 term), Jared Mundt (as a math teacher @ PCHS, effective following the 2014-15 term), Debra Steidinger (as a secretary @ PCJHS, effective June 30, 2016), and April Barnes (as a special education paraprofessional @ Westview Elementary, effective following the 2014-15 term).

-Appoint Amanda Todd (as a language arts teacher @ PCJHS for the 2015-16 term), Katie Taylor (as a 5th grade teacher @ PCUE for the 2015-16 term), Kaitlin Maierhofer (as a math teacher @ PCHS for the 2015-16 term), Mark Payne (as head wrestling coach @ PCHS for the 2015-16 term), Tory Farney and Michael Franey (as football auxiliary coaches @ PCHS for the 2015 season), Brian Seeman and Jim Meister (as 7th grade softball auxiliary coaches @ PCJHS for the 2015 season), Ty Cottrell (as 7th grade auxiliary baseball coach @ PCJHS for the 2015 season), Amanda Burnett (as a special education paraprofessional @ Westview Elementary for the 2015-16 term), Melinda Fehr (as a special education paraprofessional @ Westview Elementary for the 2015-16 term), Teresa Runyon (as a special education paraprofessional @ Westview Elementary for the 2015-16 term), Monica Maurer (as marching band flags coach @ PCHS for the 2015-16 term), Luke Krippel (as head baseball coach @ PCHS for the 2015-16 term), Hayley Davidson (as a District bus monitor for the 2015-16 term), and Seth Welch (as an assistant football coach @ PCHS for the 2015-16 term).

Took general action to

-Adjourn at 11:39 PM.

Faithfully submitted . . .

John Capasso, Superintendent