

Last night, November 17, 2015, during a specially-scheduled meeting (Tuesday), the Prairie Central Board of Education . . .

Recognized the attendance of

-Board members Jeffrey Austman, Jason Dotterer, Patricia Haberkorn, Timothy McGreal, Mark Slagel, and Ann Steidinger; and superintendent, John Capasso.

-Guests Cheryl Hoffman (CSBO); Angie Kratochvil & Debra Vaughan (PCEA reps); Daniel Casillas (PCHS principal); and Kent Casson (press, the Blade).

Took general action

-To approve the minutes of its October 15, 2015 regular meeting.

-To 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 (or was reminded) that

-HB 691 & SB 318 - measures to freeze property values for a two-year period - will cost PC ~\$478,000 (based on average new dollars/year) in property taxes.

-New legislation will bring with it considerations in athletics (concussion policy), student discipline, and curriculum (civics).

-The ISBE supports EdTPA, a comprehensive exam for new teachers seeking licensure. To some, the new requirement, which involves video-taping lessons, will reduce the field to the dedicated and appropriately skilled; to others, it will drive out a portion of the aforementioned in frustration.

-Both curriculum councils - K-6, 7-12 - have met and discussed supportive software for science, an enhanced version of accelerated reader (360), and the mathematics curriculum.

-PARCC raw results from Spring put 93% of Prairie Central's tested students on a continuum from "Partially Meets Expectations" to "Exceeds Expectations" in English/language arts and math.

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

Conducted/considered old business, by

-Directing the school architect to draw specifications (and alternates) for roof and heating projects at Chatsworth Elementary.

Conducted/considered new business, by

-Approving a tentative 2015 levy of \$10,566,608, 105% of the previous year's extension.

-Approving a curriculum change for PCHS - the addition of "Financial Algebra," an alternative to Algebra II, as presented by Daniel Casillas, PCHS principal.

-Lending tacit approval to the use of Title I monies to temporarily subsidize the Chatsworth Boys & Girls Club program, which has suffered grant cancellations/reductions and is in jeopardy.

-Approving the renewal of group health, life, and dental insurance plans for 2016, ahead of the enrollment period.

Held an executive session for the purpose (exception to the Open Meetings Act) of discussing personnel and, following, made personnel decisions to

*-Accept the resignation of **Diane Ahlemeyer** (as a paraprofessional, effective at the close of the 2015-16 school term - retirement).*

*-Appoint **Brianna Berg** (bus monitor), **Kerstyn Wescott** (track coach @ PCJHS for current year), **Derek Kessinger** (auxiliary boys basketball coach @ PCHS for current year), and **Matthew Lamber** (long-term substitute as a social studies teacher @ PCHS, beginning December 14).*

-Authorize medical and personal leaves-of-absence for three (3) employees.

Took general action to

-Adjourn at 11:18 PM.