

Review of the Prairie Central Board of Education Regular Meeting on August 18, 2016

In Attendance

- »Board members Jeffrey Austman, Jason Dotterer, Patricia Haberkorn, Timothy McGreal, Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, and Ann Steidinger
- »Superintendent John Capasso
- »Business manager Cheryl Hoffman
- »Transportation coordinator Pamela Weeks
- »Press representative Kent Casson (*The Blade*)

General Action

»Approved the minutes of its July 21, 2016 regular meeting and the August 8, 2016 special meeting

»Approved the consent agenda, which included an activity fund report, bills (current/interim), a booster proposal (including a \$5,000 contribution toward a softball press-box for the PCHS athletic complex), a cafeteria report, a financial report, a financial summary, an investment schedule, a sales tax report, and a treasurer's report.

Comments (Public and/or Pre-Arranged)

None

Superintendent's Report

ISBE LEGISLATION/COMMENTARY. The two topics at the forefront of K-12 discussions at the policy level in Illinois are school security and school funding reform. It is hoped that, from such discussions, will come helpful and practical recommendations on security, and a proposal on funding reform that is agreeable to all stakeholders.

OPENING INSTITUTES. Opening institutes on August 15 and 16 included a PERA (teacher evaluation) committee meeting, department curriculum collaboration, A.L.I.C.E. training at PCJHS, Civil Rights training for front-line staff, and several training sessions for paraprofessionals.

PARCC PRELIMINARY RESULTS. The Board reviewed the results and learned that, at the District level, Prairie Central improved over its 2015 performance in both language arts and math. When state results are made available, the Board will be able to determine how PC's marks hold up against the field.

MAINTENANCE.

PCHS track resurfacing and football field repair. The track has been resurfaced and sealed, and will be striped at the first opportunity by the contractor, Fisher Track. Portions of the football field, having been vandalized in spring, were cut and re-sodded. The field is expected to be "playable" by the home opener.

PCHS gym fan replacement. The new fans/dampers have been installed by Popejoy and are in working order. It is hoped the new design will improve the flow of air in the gym.

Prim-East roof replacement. The roof at Primary-East (Chatsworth) is essentially complete, but leaks have been discovered following two hard rains. However, the leaks are likely the result of the chimney and not the roof. A tuck-pointing option will be explored.

Prim-East condensate pipe by-pass. Popejoy has completed the condensate by-pass on the west side of the building. The trench has been filled in, but will require more dirt as it settles. The area will be seeded in the fall. The project – with several stages remaining – is ultimately expected to improve heating capabilities in the building and eliminate water waste in the system.

PC Elementary security doors. Design discussions are on-going for the more effective way to install these doors.

TECHNOLOGY. The tech team is in the process of updating or outright replacing 38 smartboards, configuring 40-45 teacher computers (with moves), and installing software on ~100 student Chromebooks. Title monies, when approved, may bring an additional ~600 units for students.

REORGANIZATION/CENTERS.

Orientations. Meet-the-teacher nights have been held at the Primaries, PCE, PCUE, and PCJHS. Although the weather was poor on Monday evening, August 15, turnouts at Prim-E, -W, and PCE were very good.

Busing. Some parents are expressing concerns about new routes: The time between pick-up and the start of school (particularly for small children), down-time at intermediate stops, and long rides at the end of the day. A breakfast option was added for the intermediate stops – children waiting for the next shuttle to a final destination may eat during that wait time; and a second bus has been provided for a long home route to alleviate post-day down-time. The system will be evaluated after a few weeks, when routines are established and further adjustments have been made. The Board will not eliminate an option to attract more drivers and expand the fleet. Transportation coordinator Pam Weeks and her route committee were commended for working hard, in spite of limited resources and drivers, to create the new routes.

Boys & Girls Club. The Boys & Girls Club program at Primary-East has been discontinued. Seed monies have been allotted from Title grants to sponsor a local after-school program at East similar to that at West.

TRANSPORTATION. A contact has been made with Hicks Gas of Fairbury to provide propane fuel for at least one new bus, when it arrives. A contact will also be made with FS. The buses are expected in mid-November.

Old Business

»Approved amendments to Board Policy Manual Article 620.01(Curriculum Council), to fit new configuration of teacher leaders; and appointed Corey Steffen and Jason Dotterer as Board representatives.

»Approved Board Policy Manual Article 412 (Fundraising), to provide a framework for fundraising conducted by interest groups or individuals.

Executive Session (for the purposes of discussing personnel)

Personnel Action

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Date</u>
»Accepted the resignations of Jason Whitfill	Track Coach	PCJHS	Following 2015-16
Travis Johnson	Track Coach	PCJHS	Following 2015-16

»Appointed

Jessica Bigger (Recall)	Kindergarten Teacher	Primary-East	2016-17 Term
Josh McWilliams	Assist Football Coach	PCHS	2016-17 Term
Jamie Penney	Paraprofessional	Primary-East	2016-17 Term
Heidi Kiefer	Paraprofessional	Primary-West	2016-17 Term
Lilah Stotler	Café Worker (5 ¼ Hours/Day)	PCHS	2016-17 Term

»Authorized medical leaves for two (2) employees

General Action

»Adjourned at 8:56 PM