

August 17, 2017

In Attendance

Board members **Tim McGreal, Brian Plenert, Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, Ann Steidinger** and **John Wilken**; administrators **Paula Crane** and **Tonya Dieken**; central office employee **Cheryl Hoffman**; press representative **Kent Casson** (The Blade); PC employees Joni Besgrove and Pam Weeks; PC coach Tim McGuire

Guests: Kevin Heid, (Stifel)

Comments (Public)

None

Comments (Visitors Arranged in Advance)

None

Minutes

The Board approved minutes of the July 13, 2017 regular meeting.

The Board approved minutes of the July 27, 2017 special meeting.

Consent

The Board approved the consent agenda, which included an activity fund report, bills (current/interim), a cafeteria report, financial reports, and investment schedule, a sales tax report, and a treasurer's report.

Superintendent's Report

The Board heard from Superintendent Crane on the following topics:

- The school funding formula (SB1) amendatory veto has been overridden by the Senate, and is with the House at this time. The House will not vote on it until next Wednesday (anticipated). We will, by then, have missed TWO state aid payments. The AV looks great initially, providing PC over \$300,000 in additional state aid per year. However, it takes away many protections and considerations that the original bill had that could more than negate this increase. Those that would affect Prairie Central the most are as follows:

* the protection against a pension cost shift, which would cost PC over \$4.6million per year! This would mean a SIGNIFICANT tax increase for our communities, making it difficult for us to ask taxpayers for more money to simply sustain our basic operations. This alone would be devastating for PC.

*the AV forces schools to include all property wealth, including that which we cannot access (such as TIF)

*takes away the adjustment for inflation, so conceivably we could be funded at the exact same level 25 years from now. With a “payroll heavy” budget, this has obvious consequences.

*switches to a “per pupil” hold harmless instead of a district hold harmless. Therefore, when we lose enrollment, which has been our trend, we lose funds. This would be reasonable if they could take into account that even losing 100 students, if they are spaced out in grade-levels, would force us to cut staff to save money, affecting class sizes, programs, etc.

- Maintenance projects
 - A list of summer projects that are in progress or completed was shared with the Board. A couple of highlights: The work on replacing the wood in the walkways of the football stadium bleachers is nearly finished on the home side, the visitors side will be complete before the first home game. The Chatsworth heating system project has also been completed. The carpet has been replaced in the HS library. West side concrete has been replaced at PCPE, exhaust fans have been replaced or repaired at PCPE and UE. Playgrounds have been sprayed for weeds. Plumbing repairs were made at the UE. Roof at PCPW has been repaired. Playground fencing has been installed at PCE. All fire alarm and sprinkler inspections are complete. A plethora of additional projects are still underway as well. We received bad news on the gym roof at the UE, as the issues are not superficial as we previously thought. Our architect is currently working on a plan to repair the structural issues that were discovered.
- The Board discussed interest in an intergovernmental reporting agreement with Fairbury and Chenoa Police Departments. The agreement would allow Prairie Central administrators to exchange relevant information with these departments about PC students who reside in or attend school in Fairbury, Forrest, and Chenoa. We will seek a similar agreement with the Livingston County Sheriff’s office.
- Information about the institute was shared. Teachers were welcomed back Tuesday morning at an all-district event, and then attended various informational sessions throughout the day at the High School. Successful open houses were held Monday and Tuesday nights.
- The Board was given the current principal evaluation tool, as all principals will be evaluated this year.
- Eclipse activities vary slightly by school, however all students will be instructed in the dangers of looking directly at the sun (or partially eclipsed sun). Most all students will

either view the eclipse with special filters, or watch it streamed live through media. An informational alert will go out to parents regarding the eclipse over the weekend.

Annual Reports

- The Board approved the FY17 Transportation report, which was presented by Transportation Coordinator Pam Weeks.
- The Board approved the FY1 Food Services report, which was presented by Joni Besgrove, Food Services Director.

Old Business

The Board

- Approved Board Goals for 2017-1018 to be discussed at the next meeting. The Goals will replace those currently posted on the website.
- Approved a resolution to dispose of Meadowbrook School. The Board will soon open bids to demolish the building and offer the property for sale. The bidding will not include an option to buy the building. A Board Committee will meet with Attorney Steven Mann to work out further details.
- Mr. Harper will be asked to meet with coaches to develop policy to help coaches compensate volunteer coaches who help with our programs that have freshman games (basketball and volleyball namely). Freshman coach compensation was cut by the BOE, who remains willing to fund the games for freshman teams.

New Business

The Board

- Heard and approved a request for an Alumni Game fundraiser from Tim McGuire, HS girl's softball coach.
- Heard from Kevin Heid about financing options for Prairie Central. The district "overspent" our regular revenues by approximately \$1.3 Million last fiscal year. We were able to do this by borrowing money through issuing bonds. These 2015 series bonds will expire at the end of this year, and we need to seek alternative revenue streams to sustain the staff and programs we currently have, as well as to replace our aging fleet of buses. The Board will have more detailed information to consider by the September meeting.

Personnel

Following executive session under 5 ILCS 120/2 (1), the Board

- Accepted the resignations from Josh McWillisma (PCHS Ass't football coach), Chris Metz (PCHS Mathematics teacher, fall play director, 7-12 mathematics teacher leader), Zach Corrie (Bus Driver), David Kerns (PCJH Ass't wrestling coach), Kristy Cotter (HS Café worker), Donna Maurer (HS Café worker), Robyn Hetherington (PCE Paraprofessional)

- Appointed Dauton Berg (Bus Driver), Barbara Waddell (Bus monitor), Ashley Stokes (Bus Monitor), Jim Dooley (Bus Driver), Caleb Smith (PCE Paraprofessional), Debbie Vaughan (7-12 Mathematics Teacher Leader), Taylor Decker (PCUE Paraprofessional), Kiley Donley (PCPE Paraprofessional), Trevor Maloch (HS Mathematics Teacher), Kirsten Smith (HS Aux Volleyball Coach)
- Transferred Mindy Rockefeller to PCUE from PCPE special education
- Granted Medical Leave to a PC Employee
- Transferred Martin Pasakarnis from PM Bus Monitor to PM Bus Driver
- Approved a change in hours to Lilah Stotler (Café worker)
- Granted a one-year leave of absence to a PC Employee

Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 11:30 pm