

January 18, 2018 Board Meeting

In Attendance

Board members **Ted Bachtold, Tim McGreal, Brian Plenert, Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, and Ann Steidinger**; administrators **Paula Crane, Tonya Dieken**, central office employee **Cheryl Hoffman**; press representative **Kent Casson** (The Blade).

Guests: None

Comments (Public) None

Comments (Visitors Arranged in Advance)

None

Minutes

The Board approved minutes of the December 14, 2017 regular 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 with a correction to the January Bill Listing Report.

Superintendent's Report

The Board heard from Superintendent Crane on the following topics:

Legislative: Governor Rauner has issued an amendatory veto for Senate Bill 444, a supplementary bill to the evidence-based funding bill passed last summer. The new law requires private schools to be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to receive funds. His veto would only require private schools to be registered with ISBE. The difference is that recognition requires the school to have curriculum that aligns with the state standards, to have health and life safety checks, and to allow ISBE investigators to come to the school every few years, as with public schools. Registered schools simply complete paperwork and are never held accountable. The General Assembly is back in session January 30th and can accept the changes by a simple majority vote, override the changes with a 3/5ths majority vote, or not act at all and the bill dies. It is unclear as to whether this process will significantly delay funds being allocated to schools, although most predict that it will.

Illinois Science Assessment Results (2016): The ISA results from 2016 have arrived, and Prairie Central Schools have fared very well. A significantly higher percentage of our students met standards on the test compared to students state-wide. The test is administered in 5th and 8th grades, as well as to all students taking High School biology.

MAINTENANCE:

*Our Life Safety inspection reports were very impressive, with only minor issues noted. The cost to remedy these violations will be minimal.

*Our architect has completed the specs for the UE gym roof repair job, and we will plan to open bidding in mid-March, with bid opening around mid-April so we will be ready for approval at the April Board meeting.

*Mike has been working hard to keep buildings heated, as the recent cold snap has stressed our heating systems significantly. At this time, he has all buildings in working order.

*Significant work has been done to the ball diamonds at the HS, including adding a great deal of limestone to infields. Limestone Trucking has generously donated the trucking for all of the limestone applied.

*The last phase of lead testing was completed December 21st in all elementary buildings, and we are awaiting results.

*We are seeking a replacement heater for the one that caught fire at the UE. If possible, Mike will try to salvage and rebuild the motor that is currently there, as it is an unusual size and would be very difficult to replace. Most of the smoke damage most likely was from the plastic blower squirrel cages, which are melted down to nothing. The motor itself may not have sustained terminal damage.

MEADOWBROOK UPDATE: Asbestos abatement began on December 26th. Lee Farms is predicting the actual demolition to begin on or around January 29th.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION: The Board will have a special meeting in February to address this process.

FINANCIAL PROFILE: The district has again earned "Financial Recognition" from ISBE.

TITLE I GRANT: Mrs. Dieken explained what our Title I dollars will be spent on this year.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB GRANT: The Boys and Girls Club has applied for a 21st Century Grant to open a club at PCJH. They would serve grades 5-8 at that location. They should be informed by next week if they will receive the grant.

Old Business

- None

New Business

The Board

- Discussed timing on opening bids for fuel. No decision was made.
- Approved a trip request for the PCJH Band and Choir to attend "Music in the Parks Festival" at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee on Saturday, May 19th.
- Moved the June Board meeting date from June 21st to June 14th.

- Did a first reading of the Prairie Central Wellness Policy, to be revisited next month for approval.

Personnel

Following executive session under 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1, 10), (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)2, and (5ILCS 120/2 (c)(9) the Board

- Appointed Tory Farney as PCJH Track Coach for the 2017-18 school year
- Appointed Chad Bazzell as PCJH Track Coach for the 2017-18 school year
- Accepted the resignation of Kelley Wescott, Lead Custodian/Custodian I at PCHS.
- Accepted the resignation of Andrew Quain, Assistant Football Coach at PCHS

Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 10:34 pm