

November 14, 2017 Board Meeting

In Attendance

Board members **Ted Bachtold, Brian Plenert, Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, Ann Steidinger** and **John Wilken**; administrators **Paula Crane, Tonya Dieken**, central office employee **Cheryl Hoffman**; press representative **Kent Casson** (The Blade); PC employees **Kyle Miller, Becky Freed, Eric Hall, Nicole Joiner and Cathy Smith**

Guests: None

Comments (Public)

Ed Maubach addressed the Board about a concern he has with a Prairie Central employee.

Comments (Visitors Arranged in Advance)

None

Minutes

The Board approved minutes of the October 19, 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.

Superintendent's Report

The Board heard from Superintendent Crane on the following topics:

FFA National Convention: Our FFA teams did extremely well again this year, bringing home several awards, including a 1<sup>st</sup> place in Ag Mechanics. Several team members attended the Rotary Club to share the story of their success.

LEGISLATION: The increase in Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption from \$5,000 to \$8,000 along with the increase in the General Homestead Exemption from \$6,000 to \$10,000 will have a significant impact on our revenue. Additionally, there is a property tax freeze now in effect in some of the northern counties, most likely leading to a property tax freeze for us eventually. The two paired together will be devastating for Prairie Central. In other legislation: the cursive writing bill has passed and will become law. This requires cursive writing to be taught at the elementary level. We are already meeting this requirement.

TRANSPORTATION: We will be purchasing software to help with management of bus routes and data. It will take approximately 3 months to get our data uploaded and "cleaned up" within the program, and have the program usable for us. The program looks promising in helping us create more efficient routes, hopefully saving money in the long run, however with the difficulty of creating routes

for a 386 square mile district with schools nearly 25 miles apart it is difficult to predict just how beneficial the program will be.

VETERAN'S DAY: Each school had their own special Veteran's Day activities, ranging from picture-coloring to full programs. Principals report that activities and programs went well and were well attended.

### Old Business

The Board:

- Approved a resolution declaring the intention to issue Working Cash Bonds for use over the next several years for operational costs and bus purchase. This provides us with an alternative revenue stream, as currently our budget shows deficit spending of approximately \$1.1 Million.
- Approved the earlier resolution to accept a bid from Lee Farms Excavating for the demolition of Meadowbrook Elementary School, adding that the District has made the decision to retain the property once the building is demolished. The property has potential for bus storage.
- Heard a proposal by Mr. Hall regarding the purchase of band uniforms. The current uniforms are well past their expiration date and are in disrepair. New uniforms could cost around \$45,000, with the option of payments over two years. The Board will discuss this further in December.

### New Business

The Board

- Heard information regarding two grants for our Ag Science department. The "Three Circles Grant" requires matching funds from the district to build a new greenhouse for teaching purposes. The "Improving your Ag Education Program" grant helps pay Ag teachers for additional work they perform with students over the summer and before/after school.
- The Board approved up to \$10,000 for matching funds to build the new greenhouse.
- The Board approved support of the "Improving your Ag Education Program" grant at no cost to the district.
- Heard a presentation on the 2018 tentative Levy to be approved next month.
- Heard a presentation by Cheryl Hoffman regarding the new health insurance program and its associated costs. The Board approved the new Blue Cross/Blue Shield quote as recommended by the District Insurance Committee.

### Personnel

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

- Appointed Patrick Thomas (HS Girls Basketball Auxiliary Coach), Erica Wenger (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Interim Volleyball Coach), and Kirsten Smith (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach)

### Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 10:35 pm