

October 19, 2017 Board Meeting

In Attendance

Board members **Ted Bachtold, Tim McGreal, Brian Plenert, Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, Ann Steidinger** and **John Wilken**; administrators **Paula Crane** and **Tonya Dieken**; PCEA member **Nicole Joiner**

Guests:

Andy Skoog (FFC), **Denise Plenert, Lisa Bounds, Nathan Plenert, Jake May** (Scouts); **Brian Quamm** (EPG)

Comments (Public)

None

Comments (Visitors Arranged in Advance)

Adam Dontz (GLCEDC) discussed a 2-year property tax abatement agreement for BMCH Properties, LLC (Charlie Hoselton Jr. and Brian Miller).

Kale Minnaert (Opperman Construction) discussed his plan of use for the Meadowbrook property if he receives the demolition bid. Mr. Minnaert is interested in developing the land into a subdivision including several houses and a park. Prairie Central would remain the owners of the bus garage which currently stands.

Minutes

The Board approved minutes of the September 21, 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:

- We have received a letter from Representative Dan Brady, who was impressed and appreciative of his opportunity to participate in the "Principal for a Day" program at PCJH. He sent his congratulations to "fine examples of great staff, exceptional students, and other several successes in Prairie Central School District #8".
- We continue to receive state aid payments regularly. The amount is the "base funding minimum", which will be adjusted once calculations have been completed by the Illinois State Board of Education. We still, however, have not received all categorical payments in the areas of transportation and special education from last year. We hope to receive them by the end of December.

- School security update: We are currently pricing additional cameras at PCJH and considering additional cameras at all elementary buildings. Cost will determine how many cameras will be added at this time. *The intercom system at the Junior High is not functioning properly; we have received an estimate of cost for consideration, it is costly but necessary. *We have added an additional entry door at PCE, as well as a chain-link fence around the perimeter of one of the playgrounds. *PCE staff will complete ALICE training (active shooter) during our February institute. PCHS, PCJH, and PCUE staffs have already completed this training. *The PCHS fire alarm will soon be in need of attention. Replacement for this is estimated at \$20,000.
- The cursive writing debate will come up in the veto session this week. Stay tuned. At this time, the governor has vetoed the mandate of units of cursive writing. The veto could be overridden, although many are predicting there are not enough votes to do so.
- Beginning in January, we will be mandated to provide free feminine hygiene products in restrooms for all 6th-12th grade students. There will be discussions on how this should be done. It is estimated that this unfunded mandate will cost Illinois public schools over \$13 million each year.
- Tonya Dieken presented an update on our current “projects” in the area of curriculum, instruction, and technology. Teacher-leaders have been working hard under her direction to implement pilot programs, course, and current curriculum and to discuss ways of improving instruction. In-district professional development has been offered to all teachers, and teachers can earn continuing education credit for attending. All grade-level groups have been collaborating at least weekly, as have content-area groups. It has been more difficult for PCPE and PCPW staffs to meet, given the physical distance between them. The district has obtained technology to allow these buildings to meet virtually.

Old Business

The Board:

- Approved the property tax abatement plan as presented by Adam Dontz.
- Accepted a bid from Lee Farms Excavating of Onarga, Illinois at a cost of \$212,500. The district will retain the property.
- Heard further information from Paula Crane regarding the proposal to allow coaches to compensate an auxiliary coach at no cost to the district. Both board attorney Jeff Funk and auditor Floyd & Associates have approved of the plan.
- Approved the Auxiliary Coach Compensation proposal as presented.
- Was reminded of the calendar of events for consideration on issuance of bonds for the purposes of operations and bus purchase. Further action will be considered next month.
- Was updated about current research on new transportation software. Pam Weeks (transportation), Paula Crane, and Colin Duncan (technology) attended a webinar on Wednesday

and heard promising information about the capabilities of the software. The next step will be a pilot of the program. Colin will be submitting data to the company for input to create the pilot. Also, we are submitting an application for a grant from the EPA. The grant would award us money to take some of our buses out of commission to be replaced by more environmentally friendly vehicles. We have many buses that would qualify, however it is a nationally-competitive grant.

- Was informed that Mr. Hall has submitted a rough estimate of \$42,500 for new marching band uniforms. The board is interested in working with the music department to make this a reality. A proposal will be prepared for the November board meeting.

New Business

The Board

- Heard a presentation about our recent FY17 audit and Annual Financial Report. The audit came out “excellent” with the district maintaining the financial status of “Recognition”. This is the highest status designated. It is noteworthy, however, that the district has maintained this status due to the 2015 issuance of bonds. Without the bonds, we would most likely fall into the “early warning” category.
- Approved the FY17 audit and Annual Financial Report.

Personnel

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

- Accepted the resignations from Sandy Ropp (8th grade volleyball coach) and Janay Ericksen (café worker)
- Appointed Trevin McCulloh (HS boys basketball auxiliary coach), Chris Harper (football assistant), Hilary Bauman (PCE secretary), Tory Farney (co-head JH wrestling coach), Joe Cliffe (co-head JH wrestling coach), Bill Casner (JH assistant wrestling coach), Sonya Gradberg (HS girls basketball assistant coach), and Susan Cavazos (café worker)

Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 9:35 pm