

September 21, 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, Tonya Dieken, and Chris Harper**; central office employee **Cheryl Hoffman**; press representative **Kent Casson** (The Blade); PC employees **Christy Decker and Allison Kaisner**

Guests: None

Comments (Public)

None

Comments (Visitors Arranged in Advance)

None

Minutes

The Board approved minutes of the August 17, 2017 regular meeting.
The Board approved minutes of the August 29, 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.

Budget Hearing

Superintendent Crane presented the FY 18 Budget. The budget reflects deficit spending of \$882,907. It will be necessary to transfer 2015 working cash bond money into the Education Fund (\$400,000) and Transportation fund (\$650,000), the two funds that will show the largest deficits at the close of the fiscal year. The budget will be published on the PC website, and will be filed with the ISBE and ROE17. Copies of the official budget are available at the Unit Office.

Superintendent's Report

The Board heard from Superintendent Crane on the following topics:

- To add to our budget woes, our health insurance company has informed us they are planning to increase health insurance premiums by 34%. Cheryl, who is the Health Insurance Committee Chair, has asked the company to look for alternative plans to offer employees. The committee requested quotes from other companies last year as well, although there were not many who were willing to submit a quote to our district. We are awaiting further information.

* Prairie Central again outscored other districts in the state on nearly all content areas and grade levels on the PARCC exam. More detailed reports will be discussed with teachers as the administrators see fit. Also, on our first administration of the SAT exam, our students outscored both our state and national counterparts in both “ELA” and math. The PARCC and SAT exams will again be administered this school year. Illinois Science Assessment results are still not, and may not ever be, available.

*There are two roof projects that need attention at this time. The PCPW school roof needs “minor” repairs to stop leaks. The PCUE gym roof, however, requires structural repair and will be opened for bid due to the high cost (as the first estimate was close to \$70,000).

*Enrollment continues to decline. While our primary schools are “holding their own”, we have lost 54 students district-wide. If anyone figures out where all the children are going, let me know.

Old Business

The Board:

- Approved the Budget as presented.
- Approved the proposal by the Greater Livingston County Economic Development Council to allow them to extrapolate a previously approved matrix of property tax abatement incentives.
- Heard a proposal by Mr. Harper regarding compensation of freshman coaches at no cost to the district, but did not take action. The Board has requested further information and attorney approval.
- *Discussed a calendar of events for consideration on issuance of bonds for the purposes of operations and bus purchase. Further action will be considered next month.
- *Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between Prairie Central and the Fairbury Police Department and Chenoa Police Department. The agreement would allow the reciprocal reporting of criminal activity between PC and these police departments. This agreement is in response to the SB100 legislation.

New Business

The Board

- Approved a trip for the HS softball team March 23-March 27 to Kentucky.
- Discussed a preliminary enquiry from the HS music department requesting uniforms be purchased for marching band. Mr. Hall will collect more detailed information for a future board meeting.

Personnel

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

- Accepted the resignations from Jeannea Shier (HS FACS teacher) effective close of 2017-18 school year, Beth Ellis (Bus Driver) effective immediately, Lora Freeland (PCE Secretary) effective October 6, 2017.
- Appointed Christy Eshleman (Bus Monitor) and Gina Gomez (Bus Driver).

Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 11:18 pm