

April 25, 2019 Board Meeting #2 **AMENDED**

In Attendance

Board members: **Mark Slagel, Dana Kafer, Lori Schahrer, Ted Bachtold, Brian Plenert, and John Wilken**; administrators: **Paula Crane, Tonya Dieken**; Prairie Central employees: **Lisa Bounds, Nicole Joiner, Meg Briscoe, Mindy Cavaness, Katie Travis**; press **Kent Casson** (The Blade).

Guests: **None**

Comments (Public) **None**

Comments (Visitors Arranged in Advance)

Organize

The Board accepted a letter of resignation from board member Brad Brown.

Dana Kafer and Lori Schahrer were officially sworn in.

The Board elected Mark Slagel board President, Lori Schahrer board Vice President, and John Wilken board Secretary.

The Board approved the Board Meeting Calendar for the 2019-20 school year.

Consent

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

Amend Agenda

The Board approved an amendment to the agenda to include a request from PCHS Softball for an overnight trip.

Superintendent's Report

The Board heard from Superintendent Crane on the following topics:

*Legislative Update: Bills that could be impactful for Prairie Central:

- It looks like the \$40,000 minimum salary for teacher will probably pass. The impact on PC will not be great, as we have very few "cells" in our CBA that are not at or above this threshold.
- SB 1952 reverts back the end-of-career salary increase for certified staff to 6% instead of 3%. It also eliminates the basic skills test for new teacher candidates and allows schools to pay student teachers.
- SB 455 allows school nurses and administrators to administer medical cannabis-infused product to students with prescription.
- HB 1561 requires schools to create a threat assessment protocol and team, which all Prairie Central Schools will do this summer whether or not this passes. It also allows CSFT money to be used for purposes other than its current prescribed uses. This new use would include school safety and mental health.

- HB 2263 would require teachers to instruct students on work ethic, and offer anger management courses. That's fun.

*Funding Update:

At this time, we are receiving our Evidence Based Funding on time or nearly on time, however we are still lacking in transportation (and other) payments. Hopefully the state will come through by the end of the fiscal year.

*The state is considering bringing back the "5 and 5" early retirement option. This would allow teachers who are within 5 years of retirement and at least 50 years old to "buy" up to 5 years of service and retire "early". It is hoped that this would help with the pension crisis.

*Bright Stalk has begun construction on a wind farm near Chenoa in McLean County. We do not yet have firm numbers, however we may stand to benefit with nearly \$330,000 in tax money. This money would not flow until all turbines are online. Again, the actual tax benefit would not be calculated until the project is finished. Additionally, it will be difficult to predict what this benefit will look like in the near future, as new calculations will be done to determine our Evidence-Based Funding amounts. If the turbines are up and running before they do the calculations, we will see less benefit.

*The Board has set a tentative tour date of May 29th, but may take the tour earlier if our "farmer" board members have time away from the fields due to rain.

*We have one new bus that is still awaiting the installation of radio equipment, but all others are "on the road". We have experienced some difficulty with the doors on several buses, but hope to have that resolved soon.

*Summer maintenance list will be ready by our May meeting.

*The Board will receive training from the Illinois Association of School Boards on June 11th.

Old Business

- The board discussed the possibility of a school resource officer in the future.
- There was discussion about the Transportation Director job description, and if it might be necessary to contract someone to be a "Fleet Manager" as well. For now, we will continue with the current position as it is.
- The secure entrance project at the High School is moving along, and has hit a few bumps along the road. Additional asbestos abatement will be necessary before construction, but the architect is still hopeful that the project can be completed on time.
- The Board approved supporting the Boys and Girls Club through granting the organization \$10,000 of Title I money per site for programs at PCP East and PCP West. The District currently funds these programs with this money.
- The Board approved an amended/final school calendar for the 2018-19 school year.

New Business

- The Board approved handbook changes for the elementary schools, junior high, and high school as presented.
- The Board approved an overnight trip for designated FCCLA members who will be competing in Nationals June 19-May 3.
- The Board approved an overnight trip for the PCHS softball team.
- The Board approved a bid from Cloverleaf Farms for milk for the 2019-20 school year.
- The Board approved a bid from Aunt Millie's Bakery for bread for the 2019-20 school year.
- Summer mowing help will be sought to alleviate the time constraints for our maintenance department.
- McLean County is working on getting checks printed for those McLean County (mostly Cropsey) residents that were over-taxed. The checks could go out as soon as early next week.
- Board committee appointments were tabled until the May meeting, after a new board member is appointed.

Personnel

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

- Accepted the resignation of Gwen Knapp, PCE paraprofessional effective the end of the 2018-19 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Kelly Audia as PCHS special education teacher effective the end of the 2018-19 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Miranda Biehl as PCHS ELA teacher effective the end of the 2018-19 school year .
- Accepted the resignation of Beth Marshall as PCE 2nd grade teacher with intent to retire at the end of the 2018-19 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Emily Wenger as PCHS Fall Cheer Coach effective the end of the 2018-19 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Sarah Bertram as PCHS Fall Play Director effective the end of the 2018-19 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Rhonda McClellan as PCUE secretary with intent to retire at the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Megan Rients as PCE 2nd grade teacher effective the end of the 2018-19 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Lisa Lange as PCE 3rd grade teacher effective the end of the 2018-19 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Danielle Donovan as PCPE/W pre-K/ECSE teacher effective the end of the 2018-19 school year.
- Appointed Brittany Watson PCHS math teacher beginning the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Blayne Dixon PCHS social studies teacher beginning the 2019-20 school year.

- Appointed Oktawia Brozda as PCHS science teacher beginning the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Wade Czerwonka as PCHS Dean of Students beginning the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Emily Soto as UE 6th grade teacher beginning the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Emily Soto as PCJH cheer coach beginning the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Austin Wenger as PCJH Dean of Students/Athletic Director beginning the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Carrie Comincioli as PCP East Interventionist beginning the 2019-20 school year.
- **Appointed Tammy Fairley as PCJH special education teacher beginning the 2019-20 school year.**
- Transferred Cynthia Wurmnest from PCE 3rd grade special education to 2nd grade classroom.
- Transferred Emily Jones from PCP East 1st grade to PCE 2nd grade.
- Transferred Katie Travis from PCP East special education to PCE special education.
- Approved a medical leave of absence for an employee.

Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 10:54 pm