

January 17, 2019 Board Meeting

In Attendance

Board members: **Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, Ann Steidinger, Ted Bachtold, Brian Plenert, and John Wilken**; administrators: **Paula Crane, Tonya Dieken**; Prairie Central employees: **Kay Shols, Jenn Steidinger, Lisa Bounds**; press representative **Kent Casson, *The Blade***.

Guests: Brad Brown, Dana Kafer, Nathan Plenert, Denise Plenert

Comments (Public) None

Comments (Visitors Arranged in Advance) None

Minutes

The Board approved minutes of the December 20, 2018 regular meeting.

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.

Superintendent's Report

The Board heard from Superintendent Crane on the following topics:

\*Legislative Update: A new governor has taken office. According to his promises during his campaign, it looks like his educational focus will be:

- Lower property taxes, especially on lower-income households, as part of shifting the main funding burden for education from local government onto the state.
- Oppose the private school tax credit program or anything else that's "siphoning off money from public schools."
- Lowering the mandatory school enrollment age from 6 to 5.
- Incrementally enroll more 3- and 4-year-olds in preschool — about 12,500 a year for eight years.
- Increase access to state child care subsidies — to 200 percent of the federal poverty level from the current 185 percent, and let people gradually wind down participation as their income approaches 300 percent of the poverty level. (The campaign says 200 percent threshold would be about \$40,000 in annual salary for a family of three.)
- Add more preschool teachers and classrooms: "I'm going to establish new financial incentives for people to earn the appropriate credentials and enter the state's early learning workforce."
- Expand "birth-to-three" home visit services and create a "Family Engagement Portal" to educate new parents on child development.

\*Mrs. Dieken gave an overview of what is being planned for our February institute. Among other opportunities, we will feature ALICE training for our primary schools, co-teaching, mental health first aid, college-career connections roundtable (inviting our businesses for collaboration and communication), visual tracking/dyslexia, STEAM swap and share, culture/climate/motivation.

\*The Board was shown a new app which connects teachers and staff to our security system, giving them access to all security cameras in their building during an emergency so they

can make informed decisions on how to react. Additional equipment would be needed to run the software effectively.

#### New Business

- The Board was given information about a new intercom/communication system for Prairie Central schools. Several of the current systems are failing and have required a great deal of maintenance. Replacing current systems with more modern equipment could cost nearly \$250,000. The new systems would provide better communication on a daily basis, as well as more options for more detailed information in case of an emergency. More investigation will be carried out and a recommendation will be brought to the next meeting.
- The Board and meeting guests took a tour of the new High School Career Lab at PCHS.

#### Old Business

- The superintendent evaluation will be completed by Mrs. Crane, as well as all Board members and returned to President Slagel by February 17<sup>th</sup> to be compiled.
- Our architect is working on plans for the HS daytime visitor entrance and office modification which is a high safety priority for the District.

#### Personnel

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

- Accepted the resignation of Kate Walter, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at PCE
- Accepted the resignation of Jennifer Steidinger, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at PCUE
- Appointed Kylie Crews, SLP for the 2019-20 school year, building assignment TBD.
- Approved medical leaves-of-absence for two Prairie Central employees.

#### Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 9:30 pm