

July 19, 2018 Board Meeting

In Attendance

Board members: **Ted Bachtold, Tim McGreal, Brian Plenert, Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, and Ann Steidinger, John Wilken**; administrators: **Paula Crane and Tonya Dieken**; central office employee **Cheryl Hoffman**; Prairie Central employees **Joni Besgrove, Pam Weeks and Charisse Price**.

Guests: Kevin Heid, Matt Lawrence

Comments (Public) None

Comments (Visitors Arranged in Advance) None

Minutes

The Board approved minutes of the June 14, 2018 regular meeting and the June 26, 2018 special 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/FUNDING:

*The recent JANUS Supreme Court ruling declared Fair-Share dues unconstitutional. The District will no longer deduct Union Fair Share dues from non-PCEA members.

*The minimum salary bill is still alive, we will keep watch for the next Collective Bargaining Agreement. All teachers are already making the new minimum salary, with the exception of our first-year teachers with a bachelors or bachelors plus 8 graduate hours and our second-year bachelor's degree only teachers. This past year, that was 3 teachers.

*HB 5627 will hopefully help with the teacher shortage, providing an easier path to licensure in Illinois for those already licensed in other states, as well as the ability for retired teachers to teach for 120 days instead of 100 as a substitute. The teacher shortage, especially in specialized areas such as math, science, and foreign language, is intensifying. Many of our neighboring districts are still searching for teachers at this "late" date. Some will find it necessary to open the school year without filling positions.

*Update on federal grants: We are set to receive LESS funding for Pre-K, Title I and II, and a little more for Title IV (safe schools) this year. The changes are -\$13,596 for Pre-K, -\$42,305 for Title I, -\$17,246 for Title II, and +\$5,833 for Title IV. Pre-K money is used to pay salaries and buy supplies for our preschool programs. The money does not completely fund the program, but it does fund a large part of it. Title I money is used for interventions for low-income students who struggle in math and reading, and Title II money is used for professional development for teachers to increase their skills in working with these students.

*Working cash transfer: We received a last minute payment from the state, which helped a great deal with decreasing the deficit in several accounts for FY18. Because of this, we only had to transfer \$150,000 from working cash into Operations and Maintenance and \$150,000 into our Transportation Fund. This was a big improvement from the projected transfer amounts.

*Maintenance Report: Report on "larger projects": We are still collecting information on the removal of a tank at the Meadowbrook property, and will hopefully start work on this soon. Work has begun on the Upper Elementary gym roof for completion before the return of staff and students. Carpeting and tile work has been completed at the Junior High and PCE. New roofing has been installed on the concession stand at the High School.

*The teacher shortage continues. We are lucky enough to have filled most of our vacancies, however we will continue to advertise a mathematics position at the High School. We are fortunate to have two well-qualified long-term substitutes to fill this void until a suitable candidate can be found.

*Beginning this year, we are required to do "site based reporting" of our expenditures. This means all expenses will have to be assigned to their correct building, including everything from payroll to rolls of paper towels! There will be a great deal of work involved, mostly involving the Unit Office staff. Details are still being worked out on how to effectively and efficiently meet the requirements.

Annual Reports

The Board

- Heard the annual Food Services report from Joni Besgrove, Food Services Director, and the annual Transportation report from Pam Weeks, Director of Transportation.

Old Business

The Board

- Approved a resolution providing for the issue of \$1,497,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2018, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to Bank of Pontiac. The "loan" will be used to buy new (or newer) buses for the District, as our fleet is very aged and repair bills have been exorbitant. Although we have to borrow money to buy the buses, it is our

hope that the money saved in repair bills will somewhat offset the bond issuance and allow us to get on a rotation of replacing buses in a more timely manner.

- Approved the purchase of 6 currently leased buses, and discussed a plan of purchase for up to 8 more regular and one wheelchair bus, as well as a maintenance vehicle.

New Business

The Board

- Was presented with updates on the current Board Goals by Tonya Dieken, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology. Upon approval, the updated goals will replace the current goals on the Prairie Central website.
- Was presented with a tentative budget, which will be revised as needed once Evidence Based Funding information is released. The Budget Hearing will take place at the regular September Board meeting (September 20, 2018).
- Reviewed the current Board committee assignments.
- Viewed a new Principal Evaluation Tool, which will again be discussed for approval during the August Board meeting.

Personnel

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

- Appointed Kacey Harrison as Kindergarten teacher at PCP East
- Appointed Josh McWilliams as auxiliary wrestling coach at PCHS
- Appointed Debby Burmaster as special education teacher at PCJH
- Appointed Sarah Burtram as Fall Play director
- Appointed Kirsten Smith as elementary Physical Education teacher for PCPE, PCPW and PCUE
- Appointed Cynthia Wurmnest as PCE special education teacher
- Appointed Kyra Gadberry as PCE paraprofessional
- Appointed Matthew Malloy as PCHS science teacher
- Appointed Lynn Bryant as PCPE Head Custodian
- Appointed Kristal Deming as PCJH Dean of Students
- Accepted a resignation from Caleb Smith (PCE paraprofessional)
- Accepted a resignation from Randy Perkins (PCPE Head Custodian)
- Accepted a resignation from Tonya Smith (PCPE Kindergarten teacher)
- Accepted a resignation from Margaret Trost (PCPW Café worker)
- Accepted a resignation from Michael Francy (PCJH Dean of Students)
- Approved a medical leave-of-absence for an employee
- Approved non-bargaining salaries for FY19

Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 11:48pm