
PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
OPEN SESSION**

APRIL 16, 2020

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8, FORD, LIVINGSTON, AND MCLEAN COUNTIES, WAS HELD ON APRIL 16, 2020 AND WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT MARK SLAGEL AT 7:04 PM IN A VIRTUAL MEETING BASED OUT OF THE PRAIRIE CENTRAL UNIT OFFICE.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Bachtold, Dana Kafer, Lori Schahrer, Mark Slagel, John Wilken, Brian Plenert

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim McGreal

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Paula Crane, Tonya Dieken, Lisa Bounds

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Angie Kratochvil, Kelly Honegger, Nicole Joiner, Caren Appel, Katie Ricketts

GUESTS PRESENT: None

PRESS PRESENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT NONE

VISITORS ARRANGED IN ADVANCE None

GENERAL ACTION

TO APPROVE MINUTES Moved by Bachtold and seconded by Schahrer that we approve minutes of the March 17, 2020 regular meeting as presented.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAFER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHRRER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Plenert and seconded by Kafer that we approve minutes of the April 6, 2020 special meeting as presented.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAHER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHNER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA Moved by Wilken and seconded by Bachtold that we approve the consent agenda, which includes: Activity fund report, bills (current and interim), café report, County Sales Facility Tax report, financial report/summary, investment schedule, and treasurer's report.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAHER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHNER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board heard from Superintendent Crane on the following topics:

- Distance Learning Update: This is going extremely well given the circumstances that we have to work with. We met with the district leadership team including our teacher leaders at the beginning to discuss how this would look. They determined guidelines for expectations of time spent on each subject, according to the grade level/developmental level of the kids. Teachers have been using a variety of ways to reach kids. We have had varied levels of participation, however our percentage of kids participating has been better than many districts. This is most likely due to the personal contacts our teachers have been making. We are aware the gap will widen, but that hopefully it will be a great learning opportunity for all of us. There have been many detailed decisions that have had to be made, especially at the High School level where credits count toward graduation, etc. Different grade level bands have decided on different methods to assess student work, including pass/incomplete and grades of 1 or 5, etc. Students will need to be assessed when they return to school for teachers to know how much "slide" took place, and how we will address gaps.
- Graduation/Senior Banquets, etc: We are remaining hopeful that we will be back in May, but the reality is that this is a slim possibility. The High School has been brainstorming ways to make graduation a meaningful experience for our seniors, who deserve to be honored for their accomplishments. Many ideas have been discussed including a virtual graduation by having a video produced which would include speeches and students' pictures in caps and gowns, etc. The HS staff would like to make it as "real" as possible given the tight parameters that have been given to us.
- Meal distribution is going very well. It took a while to get it "tweaked" to where the café staff feels comfortable with the process. It is a great deal of work with a limited staff. We have had paraprofessionals and teachers who have graciously been willing to help with meal distribution as well. The café staff has worked hard and made many changes to get it to the smooth-running process that it is today. Currently, we are preparing meals out of the JH, PCE, and the HS, and serving from all buildings except the JH. The HS is preparing 276 lunches, PCE is preparing 123 lunches and the JH is preparing 173 lunches daily, along with the same number of breakfasts each day. This number has leveled off a bit, however it does continue to rise. This means our café staff is distributing over 5,700 meals each week!
- We have distributed technology to many families, and this process continues as well. So far, we have loaned out 75 iPads and 456 Chromebooks. We have our hotspots up and running at PCP East and West, PCJH, and PCHS. Colin has been working with Maxwire to provide free internet

to families of students who cannot afford internet in their homes. This is actually Prairie Central bandwidth, being delivered by Maxwire, who is donating their time and hardware to this cause. Maxwire will install the internet into households in need. We will seek out families in need, beginning with the families of our students who qualify for free lunch.

- There are many unanswered questions about how COVID-19 will affect our budget for next year. What we know right now is that tax collection will be delayed in both Livingston and McLean Counties. This means this money will be delayed in reaching us as well. Under normal circumstances, we would receive early tax money from McLean County, which is in this year's budget. We will not be anticipating this money for this fiscal year. This will require a budget amendment. We also know that our CSFT (1% sales tax) revenue will fall sharply over the next few months, and for an unknown period of time thereafter. It is difficult to predict how quickly this will rebound. We have been relying heavily on this revenue for completing projects throughout the district which have been long overdue. Our future project plan will be "on hold" until we get an idea of where we are financially. A third given is that interest rates have been lowered and we will not generate the anticipated income on investments that is reflected in our current budget. What we do *not* know is how the state's financial situation will affect the amount of funding we receive for next school year (which begins July 1). The governor has already indicated that his proposed budget is "off the table", and he will start over. There have been many scenarios discussed, the best case being that we end up with the same amount of funding that we received this year. The worst case could be a significant decline. Because we are a "Tier II" school financially (Tier I being the most in need, Tier IV being the most financially stable), we will not be the first to have funds cut, however the deeper the cuts the more likely we will to be effected by this. As this is a large portion of our revenue, we will watch this closely. Luckily, we have had a few good years in succession, and will most likely be able to weather the storm, although we won't come out in the same shape we went in.
- We will receive money through the federal government's CARES Act, however we have not yet been made aware of when this money will arrive or how it can be used. We will continue to keep updated on this situation.
- The roofing projects will begin sooner than anticipated. The project will begin in Chenoa as early as Monday, with the hopes of getting all four roof sections (including HS) finished well before the start of school next year.
- Mike has had all utilities disconnected from the concession stand at the football field in Forrest in anticipation of the demolition of that building, which is dilapidated and posing a hazard. Current plans are to demolish and remove the building soon.
- The pandemic has created an interesting situation for us in that we have contracted for fuel that we will not be able to use within the contracted time due to school closure. The fuel was contracted at a much higher price than the current price. Although details will need to be worked out, there is an opportunity to buy out of part of the contract. More information is needed to make a decision on what path is best for the district.

DISCUSSION (OLD BUSINESS)

- No Discussion

DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS)

- The Board discussed calendar change options for the end of this year. No action will be needed until the June board meeting.

- Discussion on remaining field trips and activities for the summer was held, given the dangers of the current pandemic and limitations given by the state.
- The board discussed adding freshman basketball and 7th grade softball and baseball coaches for next year, along with a drumline stipend. These positions have been cut for many years, and will be discussed each year.
- A proposal for fees and stipends for next year was viewed, with modest increases in many of the current fees to make up for the cost of programs.
- Student handbook changes were presented, as submitted by Mrs. Conway (K-6th handbook) and Mrs. Deming (JH handbook). The handbooks were updated to match language presented by the IPA Model Student Handbook in order to be compliant with new laws.

ACTION – OLD BUSINESS

NO ACTION

ACTION - NEW BUSINESS

PARTNERSHIP

Moved by Bachtold and seconded by Schahrer that in the interest of providing efficient and effective education through distance learning, we agree to parter with Maxwire to attempt to provide internet service to the homes of families of students in need throughout our district where possible and to the best of our capabilities with current resources. We understand that this will require interconnecting our data networks, and that this interconnection in no way constitutes an endorsement of Maxwire nor a legal agreement to continue this connection once distance learning is no longer in effect.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAHER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHRRER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

TO ELIMINATE FIELD TRIPS

Moved by Wilken and seconded by Plenert that we suspend all field trips for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, and any time thereafter where schools are mandatorily closed. Recommendations of the CDC and Governor will be followed for summer activities at the discretion of the superintendent.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAHER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHRRER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

TO APPROVE STIPEND DOC

Moved by Plenert and seconded by Bachtold that we approve the “Status of Previously Cut Stipeneds” document to be presented to PCEA.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAUFER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHNER, NAY; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

TO APPROVE MEMBERSHIP

Moved by Schahner and seconded by Wilken that we approve the Illinois High School Association membership for Prairie Central High School for the 2020-21 school year.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAUFER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHNER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED

TO APPROVE FEES

Moved by Bachtold and seconded by Slagel that we approve the "PC Rates, Fees, and Costs" schedule for the 2020-21 school year as presented.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAUFER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHNER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED

TO APPROVE HANDBOOKS

Moved by Plenert and seconded by Wilken that we approve the handbook changes for the PCJH handbook and the K-6 handbook for the 2020-21 school year.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAUFER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHNER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter Executive Session:

Moved by Wilken and seconded by Plenert that we enter into executive session at 9:15 PM for purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; as per 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1, 10) and Collective Negotiating Matters (5ILCS 120/2 (C)2).

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAUFER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHNER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

Exit Executive Session:

Moved by Plenert and seconded by Schahner that we exit executive session at 9:48 PM.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAUFER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHNER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION ON PERSONNEL

To TERMINATE:

VOTING

RESULT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/ SITE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>MOTION BY</u>	<u>SECOND BY</u>	<u>BACHTOLD</u>	<u>KAFER</u>	<u>MCGREAL</u>	<u>PLENERT</u>	<u>SCHAHRER</u>	<u>SLAGEL</u>	<u>WILKEN</u>	
NICK KUBIAC	CUSTODIAN	IMMEDIATELY	SCHAHRER	PLENERT	YEA	YEA	ABSENT	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	CARRIED

To ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM:

VOTING

RESULT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/ SITE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>MOTION BY</u>	<u>SECOND BY</u>	<u>BACHTOLD</u>	<u>KAFER</u>	<u>MCGREAL</u>	<u>PLENERT</u>	<u>SCHAHRER</u>	<u>SLAGEL</u>	<u>WILKEN</u>	<u>CARRIED</u>
EMILY SOTO	CHEER COACH/ PCJH	END OF 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR	SCHAHRER	BACHTOLD	YEA	YEA	ABSENT	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	CARRIED
ANNA STEIDINGER	CAFÉ WORKER/ PCE EAST	END OF 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR	SLAGEL	PLENERT	YEA	YEA	ABSENT	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	CARRIED

To APPROVE LEAVE FOR:

VOTING

RESULT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/ SITE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>MOTION BY</u>	<u>SECOND BY</u>	<u>BACHTOLD</u>	<u>KAFER</u>	<u>MCGREAL</u>	<u>PLENERT</u>	<u>SCHAHRER</u>	<u>SLAGEL</u>	<u>WILKEN</u>	
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To Approve Agreement:

Moved by Schahrer and seconded by Kafer that we approve the "Remote Learning Job Expectations" document as agreed upon by Prairie Central Education Association.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAFER, YEA; MCGREAL, ABSENT; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHRER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

GENERAL ACTION

To ADJOURN:

Moved by Wilken and seconded by Plenert that we adjourn at 9:51 PM.

VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAFER, YEA; MCGREAL, YEA; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHRER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION (5 ILCS 120/2)

April 16, 2020

1. Name of unit of government

Prairie Central CUSD #8

2. Date and time of closed meeting or closed portion of meeting

4/16/2020

9:15 PM – 9:48 PM

3. Names of all members of the public body present during the closed meeting or closed portion of meeting

Ted Bachtold, Dana Kafer, Lori Schahrer, Mark Slagel, John Wilken, Brian Plenert

4. Each specific exception cited for closing the meeting (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1, 10), (5ILCS 120/2 (C)2)

a. Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel

b. Collective Negotiating Matters

5. For each of the exceptions cited, provide a general description of the subject matter discussed during the closed meeting or portion of a closed meeting

a. Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel

1. Discussion of appointments

2. Discussion of resignations

3. Discussion of performance

4. Agreement of document with PCEA

Certification

I certify that I understand Section II of the Illinois Open Meetings Act and that to the best of my knowledge and belief no other topic was discussed during the closed meeting, or closed portion of the meeting, in violation of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

President

Secretary