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**PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8**

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
OPEN SESSION**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

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 SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 AND WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT MARK SLAGEL AT 7:04 PM IN THE PRAIRIE CENTRAL UNIT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Paula Crane, Tonya Dieken, Lisa Bounds

**CENTRAL OFFICE EMPLOYEES**

PRESENT: None

**PCEA REPRESENTATIVES**

PRESENT: Nicole Joiner, Christy Decker, Allison Kaisner

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: None

STUDENTS PRESENT: None

GUESTS PRESENT: None

PRESS PRESENT: Kent Casson, *The Blade*

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PUBLIC COMMENT NONE

VISITORS ARRANGED IN ADVANCE None

## GENERAL ACTION

TO APPROVE MINUTES

Moved by Bachtold and seconded by McGreal that we approve minutes of the August 15, 2019 regular meeting as presented.

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

TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Schahner and seconded by Kafer 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, YEA; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHNER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

To Enter Budget Hearing

Moved by Wilken and seconded by McGreal that we enter the budget hearing under 105 ILCS 5/17-1 at 7:07 PM.

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

To Exit Budget Hearing

Moved by Plenert and seconded by McGreal that we return to open session at 7:27 PM.

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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board heard from Superintendent Crane on the following topics:

- There is data to show that Evidence Based Funding is working to provide additional funds to grossly underfunded schools. Although 54% of our students state-wide are still in our most under-funded schools, the funding for these schools continues to grow, and this group continues to shrink.
- Our architect has indicated that our 10-Year Health/Life Safety inspection will be completed by the end of October, and ready for review in November. This document will aid in the development of short and long-term maintenance plans for the district.
- All floor boards on the home side of the football bleachers have been reinforced with the help of Mr. Kilcullen's class. Several boards were replaced by maintenance, followed by all boards being reinforced. The bleachers will most likely need replacement this summer. For budgeting purposes, a very rough estimate of replacement costs of both home and visitor bleachers will be \$450,000 plus the costs of concrete and demolition and disposal of the existing bleachers.

- With the passage of HB1561, the district is mandated to create a district-wide threat assessment team. The team, along with all Prairie Central administrators, will be trained on proper procedures for assessing threats throughout the district.
- The Board was invited to attend a Corn Belt region meeting of IASB, which provides professional development to Board Members.
- A contract for counseling was renewed with IHR. This agreement provides additional counseling to our Junior High and High School students for school and non-school related issues.
- The fuel oil tank at Meadowbrook will cost a minimum of \$30,000 to remove, without soil or water mitigation (if needed). It is difficult to fully assess without beginning the project, and once the project begins, it could be very involved. If the Board decides to sell the land, it will need to be mitigated. Additional estimates will be sought. It was also discovered that the property also housed an underground gasoline tank. Although the tank has been removed, soil was never tested.
- Our legislators are again discussing a property tax freeze. Property taxes make up the majority of Prairie Central funding, and the increases each year due to increased EAV are counted on for increased costs of operation. It seems that now that we are getting more regular payments from the state, our main funding source is being threatened. Additionally, an enormous increase in minimum wage paired with a new minimum teacher salary with a cost of living increase included could be overwhelming to the budget.

#### Transportation Committee Update

- The district is in need of another activity bus, and LCSSU has one to offer. The bus has only 2,500 miles and is being offered for \$35,000. The addition to the fleet would help alleviate the over-booking of our existing activity buses, and also help in the event that a small group of students are to be transported to an event and a bus driver is not available. Any licensed adult can drive the activity buses.
- Charisse Price is looking at updating routes to make them more efficient. She will continue this effort.
- Two of our wheelchair buses have been in the shop lately, with costly repairs. One of the buses is aged with high miles, and the board may need to consider replacement.
- The district has received word that the paperwork is complete and in order for a check to be issued for the \$200,000 EPA grant it received last school year.

#### Curriculum Council (Advisory) Committee Update

- A meeting was held September 9<sup>th</sup>. The discussion topic of the meeting was the district mission and vision statements. Much discussion was held on whether or not the current vision statement "Pride in Excellence" should be retained, or re-written. More input will be sought after, and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

#### DISCUSSION (OLD BUSINESS)

\*The Board reviewed the proposed FY20 budget, originally presented at the regular meeting in July. The budget is much closer to balanced than in the past due to more consistent funding, however it still maintains deficit spending.

### DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS)

\* The board was given information about the Joda scholarship, and the structure of the committee overseeing it. Because of a retirement and subsequent resignation from this committee, a new committee member will need to be appointed.

\*Enrollment figures were presented, with district enrollment again showing a decline. The change from August 2018 to August 2019 is a loss of 43 students. This year's kindergarten class is large; however this year's first grade is the district's smallest class ever with under 100 students.

\*Presentation of test scores was tabled until next month, when state scores should be available.

### ACTION – OLD BUSINESS

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET: Move by McGreal and Seconded by Bachtold that we approve the fiscal year 2020 budget and forward it to the Illinois State Board of Education and Regional Office of Education as per 105 ILCS 5/17 (School Code) and to County Clerks under 35 ILCS 200/18-50 (Property Tax Code).  
VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAHER, YEA; MCGREAL, YEA; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHRRER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

### ACTION - NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT: Move by Wilken and Seconded by Plenert that we appoint Ruth Getchius to the Donald and Miller Joda Scholarship Committee.  
VOTING: BACHTOLD, YEA; KAHER, YEA; MCGREAL, YEA; PLENERT, YEA; SCHAHRRER, YEA; SLAGEL, YEA; AND WILKEN, YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter Executive Session: Moved by Plenert and seconded by McGreal that we enter into executive session at 9:05 PM for purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; as per 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1, 10).

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

Exit Executive Session: Moved by Schahrer and seconded by Bachtold that we exit executive session at 9:51 PM.

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



TO APPROVE LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR:

VOTING

RESULT

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NAME                    POSITION/SITE    EFFECTIVE    MOTION BY    SECOND BY    BACHTOLD    KAFER    MCGREAL    PLENERT    SCHAHRRER    SLAGEL    WILKEN

GENERAL ACTION

TO ADJOURN:

Moved by Bachtold and seconded by Kafer that we adjourn at 11:14 PM.

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

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

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

September 19, 2019

1. Name of unit of government

Prairie Central CUSD #8

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

9/19/2019

9:05 PM – 9:51 PM

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

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

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

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

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 resignation

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.

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President

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Secretary