

May 21, 2020 Board Meeting

In Attendance

Board members: **Ted Bachtold, Dana Kafer, Lori Schahrer (remotely), Mark Slagel, Brian Plenert and John Wilken**; administrators: **Paula Crane, Tonya Dieken, Kristal Deming and Lisa Bounds**; Prairie Central employees: **Angie Kratochvil, Nicole Joiner, Katie Ricketts, Caren Appel, Shelby Gresham, Amber Edwards, Taylor Lagel, Dawn Steidinger, Kay Shols, Melissa Nagel, Shannon Brown and Kelly Honegger**; Guest: **Jason Dotterer, Annette Hale and Michelle Legris**; Press: **Kent Casson**.

Guests: **None**

Comments (Public) **None**

Comments (Visitors Arranged in Advance) **None**

Minutes

The Board approved minutes of the April 16, 2020 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: **DISTANCE LEARNING:** Instructional delivery varied by teacher and grade level, but teachers did what they were comfortable with when the emergency took place. We encouraged this, because with the craziness, we didn't want teachers learning new software, etc without the availability of proper training. We did provide remote training, with the help of Mrs. Dieken and several teachers who were familiar with programs that would help with remote teaching and willing to video themselves demonstrating the use of the programs. These videos were extremely helpful for the teachers who were just getting started on some of these needed programs. This was one of the first examples of how our teachers jumped in and helped one another get through this.

Getting students to participate was a challenge for some. Generally, what I've heard from teachers is that students who participate when we are at school also participated when they were at home learning. Those students who do not participate well at school, generally did not participate well at home. A large percentage of students did participate to some extent:

PCPE: 95% PCPW 80% PCE 90% PCUE 85% PCJH 99% PCHS 90%

Very few students did not participate at all, less than 5%. As time went on, more students "dropped out", but teachers and administrators continued to make phone calls, send emails, and send messages through various platforms to try to re-engage these students. Some administrators even made home visits. These methods were successful to varying degrees. Those students who did not participate did have the necessary technology and internet availability (provided by us) to complete their work. Some chose not to use those things.

SENIOR AWARDS/GRADUATION: The High School is currently completing the “Awards Night” video, which will be like the ceremony we usually hold in the gym, dispersing departmental awards as well as scholarships from the community. They have collected video from someone representing each of our scholarships, as well as each faculty member that represents the departmental awards. These will be compiled into an awards night video for our seniors to be honored. They expect to have this ready within the next couple of weeks.

Graduation for our military students being deployed early will tentatively be Saturday, June 6th at 2:00. We will have those graduates and their families (no more than 10 congregating) come in and the graduate will receive his or her diploma in the front of the gym, which will be set up for graduation. This will be video-taped and either added to our virtual graduation or shared at our live graduation ceremony. We have a few students who are not deployed early and will attend our regular graduation, so this is a very small group. We have 7 graduates entering the armed forces.

MEAL DISTRIBUTION: Our café staffs are feeding approximately 509 people each day, two meals. That is a total of 5,090 meals each week coming out of our cafés. I’ve observed several of the distribution “centers”, and they have it working very smoothly. They still occasionally have someone forget to pick up meals, so we are making a few phone calls each day, however our Remind system has helped remedy this situation. We are also including a “treat” each Friday for kids to lift their spirits. Also, “Plentiful Packs” have been distributed on Fridays as well.

CARES ACT UPDATE: We have received information on how we are allowed to use CARES Act money, and there will be meetings next week to discuss some options. A survey has been sent to teachers asking them what additional resources they will need in order to do remote learning in the fall, and that information will be used to inform decisions for the money use. At this time, plans possibly include the purchase of additional software programs, technology to replace that which does not return in usable shape or does not return at all, “hot spots” to reach those students that do not have internet and cannot be reached through our partnership with Maxwire, technology to help include our immune-compromised students who may not be able to return even if we are face-to-face, additional cleaning and disinfecting supplies, new no-touch thermometers, and PPE for staff. If suitable professional development is found, this will include this as well. This is a tentative list. This is an FY20 grant, so the application will be completed this coming week, as it was just released, and money will need to be spent by September. Our allotted amount is \$285,878.

FUNDING UPDATE:

"It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide sufficient appropriations in this section to ensure that only the Base Funding Minimum amount, and no more, is distributed," House Amendment 1 to HB 64 reads.

If this budget bill holds true - and it seems there is a fighting chance it will - K-12 education will be held harmless and receive flat funding. The proposed budget also includes flat levels for early childhood funding and mandated categorical payments, and also increases special education reimbursement for this year (FY 20) by \$11.2 million.

Also, it appears that they are heading for a full FY21 budget instead of the 6 month budget that was discussed earlier. This is all great news!! We will see how the voting turns out, but our state sources are very positive about the outlook of this proposal.

END-OF-YEAR SCHEDULE: There is a tentative schedule for the last week of teacher “attendance” this year which includes discussions both horizontally and vertically for them to share how remote learning went and where they believe students are now. Buildings will also have end-of-year faculty meetings. Staff will then be having conversations about next year, and the possibilities that may await us in August. We have a set of questions that will guide discussions with each group, which will be compiled by administration over the next few weeks. By no means will teachers be asked to make decisions about how we will open up in the fall, but their input is very valuable to the administrative team in making those decisions.

THOUGHTS PERTAINING TO NEXT YEAR: Although plans are not being made for the fall, as this would be premature, we need to be thinking about the issues we will be facing and some ideas on how we want to tackle them. There are several options being discussed for the return of children: 1. Children return with limited access to schools, perhaps attending two to three days per week, or half-days because of social distancing orders. 2. Children return “full time” but are required to wear masks. 3. Children are not allowed to return, and remote learning will again be in place. We want to plan but not over-plan, as we are completely unsure of where this will be in three months, just like we had no idea in February that we would be doing remote learning in March! We are surveying teachers (to ask what supports they need to continue remote learning what worked and what didn’t, etc), parents, and older students. We are even contemplating offering parent training on the digital platforms we plan to use. There will be many decisions to be made over the summer, and a great deal of last-minute planning and changing of plans, the same that it’s been these past two months. We hope to have our thoughts in order this time!

CURRENT MAINTENANCE PROJECTS: The roofing company is working quickly, despite the weather. They have one day left on the Chenoa roof, and have delivered materials for the HS and Unit roofs. The bleacher project has been set to begin, but the weather has held them off. Vissering has been removing some of the seats, but no other work has begun. Also, with the permission of Vissering, Matt Curl has been given permission to take some of the metal seats and the two sets of stairs for the race track. Matt has already taken some of the seats, and Vissering will set the stairs aside for him once they are done with the demolition stage. Hopefully, they will be able to begin demolition next week.

Old Business

- Those who represent the board in the Athletic Booster Club asked to re-open the discussion regarding the difficulty to get parents to participate in fundraisers, particularly concession stands. Mr. Wenger, PCHS athletic director beginning the 20-21 school year, will be asked to head up a committee to address this issue.

New Business

- The board approved changes to the PCHS 2020-21 student handbook
- The board accepted a renewal of contract from Aunt Millie's for bread for the 2020-21 school year.
- The board accepted the bid of Clover Leaf Farms for milk for the 2020-21 school year.

Personnel

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

- Accepted the resignation of Eric Hall, instrumental music teacher effective the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Carrie Comincioli, PCP East interventionist effective the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Lauren Reckard, PCE special ed teacher effective the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Kathy Anderson, PCHS scholastic bowl coach effective the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Kathy Anderson, K-6 special ed teacher leader effective the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Elizabeth McDonald as sixth grade teacher at PCUE effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Mindy Cavaness as PCHS co-head scholastic bowl coach effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Angie Kratochvil as 7-12 social studies teacher leader effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Emily Wenger as K-6 interventionist teacher leader effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Amber Johnson as PCHS head cross country coach effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Brendan Vincent as instrumental music teacher effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Amanda Stenger as 7-12 science teacher leader effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Katie Urick as PCP East interventionist effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Morgan Robar as PCJH cheer coach effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Alli Ifft as special education teacher at PCP East effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Debbie Vaughan as 7-12 mathematics teacher leader effective the 2020-21 school year.
- Appointed Scott Ziller as head wrestling coach effective the 2020-21 school year.

- Internally transferred Kathy Anderson from special education teacher to first grade teacher at PCP East.
- Accepted the resignation of Kristal Deming, PCJH Principal, effective the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 10:50 pm.