

September 19, 2019 Board Meeting

In Attendance

Board members: **Ted Bachtold, Dana Kafer, Tim McGreal, Brian Plenert, Lori Schahrer, Mark Slagel, and John Wilken**; administrators: **Paula Crane, Tonya Dieken, Lisa Bounds**; Prairie Central employees: **Christy Decker, Nicole Joiner, Allison Kaisner**; Press: **Kent Casson (The Blade)**

Guests: **None**

Comments (Public) **None**

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

Minutes

The Board approved minutes of the August 15, 2019 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.

Budet Hearing

The board entered into a budget hearing, where the FY20 proposed budget was reviewed. The budget was originally presented in draft form at the July board meeting. The budget has improved greatly over the past several years due to more consistent funding, however it still shows deficit spending for the district.

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 Counsel (Advisory) Committee Update

- A meeting was held September 9th. 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.

Old Business

- The board approved the FY20 budget as presented.

New Business

- After hearing the transportation committee report, the board approved the purchase of a 2016 Activity Bus from LCSSU for \$35,000 contingent upon mechanical inspection.
- The board appointed Ruth Getchius to the Donald and Millie Joda Scholarship Committee.

- The board heard an update on “6th-day” enrollment for the district. The district as a whole is down 43 students compared to the same time last year. There is a spike at the kindergarten level, however, with a class size of 141. For the first time in Prairie Central history, a class has dropped below 100, with our current first grade class.

Personnel

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

- Accepted the resignation of Becky Webster with intent to retire at the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Marcia Freed with intent to retire at the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Joe Cliffe, co-head wrestling coach at PCJH.
- Appointed Cassie Kaufman, Kindergarten teacher for PCP West effective the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Makanda Steffen as bus monitor effective the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Dave Winterland as auxiliary girls’ golf coach effective the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Josh Clemons as assistant sophomore football coach, effective the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Jennifer Jones as co-yearbook sponsor for PCHS effective the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Blayne Dixon as co-yearbook sponsor for PCHS effective the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Matt Razo as 7th grade girls’ basketball coach effective the 2019-20 school year.
- Appointed Scott Ziller as JH wrestling auxiliary coach effective the 2019-20 school year.

Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 9:59 pm.