

**PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**OPEN SESSION**  
**\*\*\*APPROVAL PENDING\*\*\***

September 20, 2007

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 20, 2007 and was called to order by President Roger Brown at 7:00 PM in the Prairie Central High School media center.

Board members present: Roger Brown, Dan Froelich, Patricia Haberkorn, Brett Johnson, Barbara Schlatter, and Ann Steidinger

Board members absent: Joe Koehl

Administrators present: Dr. John Capasso, Superintendent

Employees or PCEA members present: Randy Lane, Mary Maurer, Marla Moore, Kelly Frambes, Celina Stefanski, Caren Appel, Janet Drake, Mary Baker, Diane Kerber

Guests present: None

Press present: None

Public Comment

None

Visitors Arranged in Advance

Building representatives of the Prairie Central Education Association approached the board with a concern about heat in the classrooms. The representatives asked the board to consider air-conditioning the district's facilities or an alternative that would bring relief, citing health issues and fatigue among students and staff, and the risk to sensitive equipment, such as computers. The board discussed the possibility of setting back the starting date of the school year in order to avoid some heat days and learned that Superintendent Capasso was in the process of surveying the staff for its views on a later start. It also discussed the possibility of installing geo-thermal heating/cooling technology in all buildings at an approximate cost of \$6 Million (\$20 per square foot). Advantages and disadvantages of both the change in the calendar and the geo-thermal solution were summarized.

Discussion

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Capasso updated the board on . . .

◆ **BUILDINGS/OPERATIONS.**

- Old Chenoa Grade School. Asbestos has been removed from the building and, by agreement, the district paid half of the established demolition amount, or \$127,475, to Sullivan Construction. Sullivan estimates that demolition and the clearing of the site are five weeks away. When the site is clear, the balance of the demolition amount will be paid.
  1. Lighting project. The economy lighting project has been completed. Materials have been submitted to the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation in order to claim a grant of \$120,000. The total cost of the project is \$144,401.06.
  2. Parking lot paving. Flaws in the Prairie Central High School parking lots' design will cause Beniach Construction to return and effect repairs at a cost of \$3,500 over the original bid. This will bring the project's total cost to around \$49,000, still considerably less than the original estimate of \$88,000. Beniach is attempting to schedule a time to work when the lots are clear.
  3. Cash rental. Superintendent Capasso asked the board if it would consider leasing the property north of the Junior High (Forrest) for private farming, or other, operations. The purpose would be to eliminate mowing that area. The board discussed the matter briefly and will take it up at a later time.

4. IDOT easement. The IDOT engineering staff has assured the board that it should anticipate no water problems as a result of culvert work on Route 47. The board approved an easement in August, granting IDOT access to a drainage area east of the Junior High.

◆ ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

- State Budget. The wrangling continues in Springfield over the budget and the actual appropriation of monies the budget promises. The district received a letter from Gov. Blagojevich's office encouraging districts to put pressure on House Speaker Michael Madigan to call the appropriations bill, lest schools would receive considerably less money than originally promised.

- ◆ CURRICULUM. At the first curriculum council meeting, a number of topics were placed on the docket for discussion this year – the after-school program, grade level expectations, portfolios, drug education, and writing. The most immediate issue is the mathematics textbook selection for next year, grades K-6. The math textbook committee will weigh opinions on three companies – Scott Foresman, Addison Wesley, and Saxon – and prepare a recommendation for the council.
- ◆ TECHNOLOGY. The STI Home is now being refined. The administrative team has viewed it and has discussed how parents will gain access to information and the parameters for teachers to place information on it. It is hoped the program will be viewable by mid-October.
- ◆ SIXTH DAY ENROLLMENT. The district reported an enrollment of 2,218 on the sixth day, down from 2,236 on the same day last year. Since 2004-2005, Prairie Central's enrollment has declined an average of 40 students per year. State aid and facilities decisions are affected by enrollment.
- ◆ SECURITY. Security plans have been amended for the current school year and have been, or will be, rehearsed in a manner appropriate to the age of the students.

Action

To alter agenda	Moved by Johnson and seconded by Schlatter that we alter the agenda to include the purchase of a lawnmower and a special needs van under "New Business." Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
To approve minutes (August 23)	Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we approve the minutes of the August 23, 2007 regular meeting as presented. Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
To approve minutes (September 6)	Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Haberkorn that we approve the minutes of the September 6, 2007 special meeting as presented. Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, abstain. Motion carried.
To approve consent agenda	Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Steidinger that we approve the consent agenda, which includes the monthly treasurer's, activity fund, petty cash, investment, financial, and cafeteria reports; a financial summary; and current and interim bills. Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
To enter budget hearing	Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Haberkorn that we enter the budget hearing at 8:45 PM. Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
	Superintendent Capasso presented information pertinent to the fiscal year 2008 budget (see attached).
To return to open session	Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Froelich that we return to open session from the budget hearing at 9:15 PM.

Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

#### Action - Old Business

To approve budget  
 Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we approve the FY08 budget as presented.  
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

#### Action - New Business

To approve Application for Recognition of Schools  
 Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Haberkorn that we approve an Application for Recognition of Schools for all district buildings.  
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To authorize lawnmower purchase  
 Moved by Brown and seconded by Schlatter that we authorize the purchase of a lawnmower at the best possible value to the district.  
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To authorize van purchase  
 Moved by Froelich and seconded by Schlatter that we authorize the purchase of a seven-passenger van at the best possible value to the district.  
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To accept resignation  
 Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we accept the resignation of **Ellen Groce** as a paraprofessional at Chenoa Elementary School, effective September 10, 2007.  
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To appoint employees  
 Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Bonnie Secrest** as part-time paraprofessional at Chenoa Elementary School for the 2007-2008 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.  
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Johnson that we appoint **Gwen Knapp** as part-time paraprofessional at Westview Elementary School for the 2007-2008 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.  
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Froelich that we appoint **Connie Dassow** as part-time paraprofessional at Chatsworth Elementary School for the 2007-2008 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.  
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Froelich and seconded by Brown that we appoint **Tracy Busch** as a part-time café worker at Prairie Central High School for the 2007-2008 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.  
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Paul Meister** as auxiliary boys basketball coach at Prairie Central Junior High School for the 2007-2008 season.

Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To adjourn

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we adjourn at 11:10 PM.

Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, absent; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

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President

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Secretary