

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

PENDING APPROVAL

March 17, 2009

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 March 17, 2009 and was called to order by President Roger Brown at 7:00 PM in the Prairie Central Community Unit School No. 8 conference room.

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

Board members absent: None

Administrators present: Dr. John Capasso, Superintendent; Paula Crane, PCUE Principal

Employees or PCEA members present: Tim McGuire

Guests present: Jason Dotterer, Mark Slagel, Michael Scott, Jeff Austman

Press present: Doris White, The Blade

Public Comment

None

Visitors Arranged in Advance

None

Special Presentation

The Board recognized Chatsworth and Meadowbrook Elementary Schools for achieving ISBE Honor Roll status due to scores on the 2008 ISAT battery. Meadowbrook was recognized for "Academic Excellence", a distinction which comes with 90% "meets" and "exceeds" on the reading and mathematics sections of ISAT; while Chatsworth was designated for not only "Academic Excellence," but also for being a "Spotlight School," a school which succeeds despite a significant low-income population. Only seven schools in Illinois were dually recognized.

Executive Session

To enter executive session

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Steidinger that we enter into executive session at 7:15 PM for purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; and pending negotiations.

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

To return to open session

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Haberkorn that we return to open session at 8:05 PM from having discussed the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; and pending negotiations in executive session.

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

Action as a Result of Executive Session

To accept resignations

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we accept the resignation (retirement under Article 9.11 of the Collective Bargaining Unit) of **Diane Bare** as a special education teacher at Prairie Central High School, effective at the close of the 2011-2012 school term.

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

Moved by Froelich and seconded by Koehl that we accept the resignation (retirement under Article 9.11 of the Collective Bargaining Unit) of **Michelle Barsema** as a kindergarten teacher at Westview Elementary School, effective at the close of the 2011-2012 school term.

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

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Haberkorn that we accept the resignation (retirement under Article 9.11 of the Collective Bargaining Unit) of **Diane Kerber** as a fourth grade teacher at Chatsworth Elementary School, effective at the close of the 2011-2012 school term.

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

To appoint

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Froelich that we appoint **Allison Kroesch** as a first grade teacher at Westview Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Froelich that we appoint **Christy Decker** as a second grade teacher at Westview Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Rebecca Casson** as a second grade teacher at Westview Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Froelich and seconded by Steidinger that we appoint **Ashley Nissen** as a temporary paraprofessional at Chatsworth Elementary School, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Steidinger that we appoint **John Gerber** as a substitute custodian I at Westview Elementary School, effective immediately and until June 4, 2009, in accordance with Prairie Central CUSD #8 procedure for substitutes.

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

Moved by Froelich and seconded by Haberkorn that we appoint **Brian E. Quam** as dean of students at Prairie Central High School beginning July 1, 2009, as per the attached one-year contract.

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

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Ryan McGuckin** as dean of students at Prairie Central Junior High School beginning July 1, 2009, as per the attached one-year contract.

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

To set pay for orientation

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Schlatter that we compensate **Michael Scott** during the time of his orientation, which will occur prior to his official start date of July 1, by developing a per diem rate of his set salary.

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

Superintendent's Report

◆ ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. An explanation and more accurate estimate of dollars that will flow specifically into schools are anticipated within the month. School construction has been eliminated from the Act, but based on preliminary estimates, Prairie Central can expect an extra \$145,000 for Title I (special reading) \$485,000 for IDEA (special education), and \$7,000 for technology. MCAT (categoricals such as transportation, lunch, special education) payments are still lagging 90 days behind, placing education and transportation funds in jeopardy.
- HB 96-05 (school accountability)
This bill would cause additional financial reporting and projecting. It would also make mandatory new board member training.
- ISBE recommended budget. The ISBE's recommended budget for FY10 calls for (1) full funding of categoricals, and (2) an increase in the foundation level of \$130. This amount will virtually hold Prairie Central harmless, given its drop in average daily attendance.
- HB 80, ISBE reorganization. Gov. Blagojevich, while in office, reorganized the ISBE to make him, essentially, the sole appointer of its members. HB 80 would allow Illinois governors to appoint ISBE members, but only jointly with a panel and with the ultimate approval of the senate.

◆ CURRICULUM.

- ISAT/PSAE. ISAT testing concluded on March 13th. Principals have commented on the difficulty in completing the exams with so much illness among the student population. Much illness has been reported in the past several weeks. The ACT/PSAE for high schoolers is April 22-23.
- Recent curriculum council meeting.
 - **February institute**. A formal report summarized the post-institute survey. The staff would prefer more motivational speakers the next time and support for the new writing program.
 - **Gifted program**. The committee has met with a consultant recommended by the regional office and is inching toward a recommendation. The new plan will include a uniform method of identifying gifted children, a number of interventions, a budget for materials, and a coordinator of some kind.
 - **Field trip**. The council discussed the possibility of a 2nd grade field trip to the Spence Farm of Fairbury.

- ◆ TECHNOLOGY. The tech committee meets again on April 6th. The main purpose will be to re-visit the implementation schedule. The discussion will probably include Smart technology, mobile labs, remote e-mail and STI Home access for staff, and an expansion of STI Home services for parents.

Discussion (Old Business)

- ◆ TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICTS. The Board still anticipates a meeting between Board members, Town Council members, and the new TIF manager to determine reimbursable expenses from the Chatsworth TIF. A meeting on the Chenoa TIF is scheduled for April 28.
- ◆ JUNIOR HIGH PROMOTION. A survey was issued to 5th, 6th, and 7th grade parents, asking for an opinion on the future of the formal 8th grade promotion exercise. So far, the response is a virtual tie between keeping the formal ceremony and eliminating it altogether. Surveys are due back in by April 15th.
- ◆ 8TH INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS. A proposal was brought by Junior High athletic director Tim McGuire and Upper Elementary principal Paula Crane to create a formal, structured 6th grade athletic program. The matter was discussed at length by the Board with no action. The proposal will be taken up again in April.

Discussion (New Business)

- ◆ CALENDARS. 2008-09 and 2009-10 calendars were introduced to the Board with the understanding that they would be formally approved at the April meeting.

Action

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| To approve minutes | Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Steidinger that we approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009 regular meeting as presented.
Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |
| To approve consent agenda | Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Koehl that we approve the consent agenda, which includes the monthly treasurer's, activity fund, petty cash, investment, financial, and cafeteria reports; and current and interim bills.
Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |

Action - Old Business

Action - New Business

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| To change meeting date | Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Steidinger that we move the April sine die and regular meetings to the 20 th , at 7 PM.
Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |
| To adjourn | Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Steidinger that we adjourn at 10:10 PM.
Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |

President

Secretary