

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

PENDING APPROVAL

May 14, 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 May 14, 2009 and was called to order by President Patricia Haberkorn at 7:01 PM in the Prairie Central Community Unit School No. 8 conference room.

Board members present: Jeffrey Austman (entered at 7:04 PM), Jason Dotterer, Patricia Haberkorn, Joe Koehl, Barbara Schlatter, Mark Slagel, and Ann Steidinger

Board members absent: None

Administrators present: Dr. John Capasso, Superintendent

Employees or PCEA members present:

Guests present: Nicole Winterland, Boys and Girls Club of Prairie Central

Press present: Tiffany Ray, The Blade

Public Comment

None

Visitors Arranged in Advance

None

Change in Agenda

To add item

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Koehl that we add the item "Student Acceptable Use Policy" to "Old Business"; and "Dual Credit Courses/Status" and "Gifted Program" to "New Business."

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Action

To approve minutes

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we approve the minutes for the April 20, 2009 regular meeting(s) as presented.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To approve consent agenda

Moved by Koehl 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; and current and interim bills.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

- ◆ ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS.
 - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Public schools still await final interpretations of how ARRA monies will be distributed and accounted for. The Governor hopes to use a portion of the state's allotment for general state aid and categorical reimbursements. Prairie Central welcomes this as expected categoricals, particularly in transportation and special education, are now 120 days behind. PC also hopes to gain \$478,941 and \$135,000 for special education and Title I, respectively, from the ARRA. Superintendent Capasso reminded the Board that the money is "soft"; i.e. after 2010 it will cease.
- ◆ CURRICULUM. At its last meeting, the curriculum council discussed, and approved for recommendation, a proposal for a "gifted" program. Two items drawing the most discussion were what it will cost (principally a full or part-time administrator; and materials and supplies) and what it will be called. The movement in schools now is toward program titles that do not set kids apart from their peers. So, the idea is to make the "gifted" program merely an extension of Rtl and address all kids' needs on a kind of continuum. Discussion was also entertained on the K-12 writing and the K-6 spelling programs.
- ◆ TECHNOLOGY. The main issue this summer for the District is the installation of taller towers and better signaling devices at Chatsworth, Chenoa, and PCJHS. The District will also again join forces with PTOs to expand on Smart technology in classrooms. We will have placed more than 90 of these interactive boards in classrooms by the beginning of next school year.
- ◆ TRANSPORTATION. The fuel tank/pump system is working well, as reported the last time. An earlier report that the fleet had consumed over 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel in two months, however, is now considered erroneous and has been corrected to 24,373 gallons between January 7 and May 7. PC is on schedule to exhaust the bid volume of 65,000 gallons in December, or in about a year's time.
- ◆ BUILDINGS. The Board scheduled a building walk-through on May 29, beginning at 8:30 AM in Chenoa.

Discussion (Old Business)

- ◆ TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICTS. The Board still anticipates a meeting with representatives of the Chatsworth Town Council regarding an intergovernmental TIF agreement. A meeting with Chenoa City Council members on April 28 revealed that there is currently no activity in that TIF. No discussion is scheduled in the near future regarding an agreement on the Chenoa TIF.
- ◆ JUNIOR HIGH PROMOTION. As per the Board's wishes, the Junior High staff will develop a proposal for replacing the current 8th grade promotion format with something less formal. The proposal is expected in June.

Discussion (New Business)

- ◆ GIFTED PROGRAM. See discussion under "CURRICULUM" above. A recommendation for a district-wide gifted program has been developed by a special committee created for that purpose and approved by the curriculum council and superintendent. The Board will deliberate over the program and render a decision on it in June.

Action - Old Business

To approve "Acceptable Use Policy"

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Dotterer that we approve the student "Acceptable Use Policy" as presented for the 2009-2010 school term (see attached).

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Action - New Business

To renew agreement with
Boys & Girls Club

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Austman that we renew the contract with the Boys & Girls Club of Prairie Central (see attached), and reduce the District's annual contribution to \$2,000 (from \$2,500).

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To approve commodities
bids

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Austman that we accept the bids of North Central Illinois Milk and Interstate Brands for District milk and bakery products, respectively, for the 2009-2010 school term.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To authorize preparation
of budget

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Austman that we authorize the superintendent to prepare the tentative FY10 budget for the July meeting.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To authorize dual credit,
weighted grades

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Slagel that we authorize Prairie Central High School to include the attached list of dual credit courses in its schedule and course description manual, and to place those courses on "weighted" status.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Personnel

To accept resignations

Moved by Austman and seconded by Dotterer that we accept the resignation of **Allison Kroesch** as a first grade teacher at Westview Elementary School, effective immediately.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Koehl that we accept the resignation of **Lesia Kline** as musical pit orchestra conductor at Prairie Central High School, effective at the close of the 2008-2009 school term.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Schlatter that we accept the resignation of **Alan Dunahee** as musical set builder at Prairie Central High School, effective at the close of the 2008-2009 school term.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To appoint

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Slagel that we appoint **Laura Schinzel** as a special education teacher at Meadowbrook Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

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

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Austman and seconded by Koehl that we appoint **John Gerber** as a part-time (50%) custodian I at Westview Elementary School, effective July 1, 2009, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Katherine Ricketts** as a special education teacher at Prairie Central High School for the 2009 Summer term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Slagel that we appoint **Josh Creek** as a special education teacher at Prairie Central High School for the 2009 Summer term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Austman that we appoint **Rachel Strike** as a special education paraprofessional at Prairie Central High School for the 2009 Summer term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Austman and seconded by Koehl that we appoint **Jodi Kemp** as a special education paraprofessional at Prairie Central High School for the 2009 Summer term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Karen Steidinger** as a special education paraprofessional at Prairie Central High School for the 2009 Summer term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To appoint consultants

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Austman that we appoint **Martin Ricconi** and **Robert Fennema** to conduct a study to determine whether or not it is feasible for Prairie Central CUSD #8 to offer special education services independent of a co-operative, at a rate of \$1,400 per day, not to exceed \$7,000.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To adjourn

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Austman that we adjourn at 10:40 PM.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

President

Secretary