

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

PENDING APPROVAL

December 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 December 20, 2007 and was called to order by President Roger Brown at 7:40 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

Employees or PCEA members present: Heidi Dotterer, Celina Stefanski

Guests present: None

Press present: Doris White

Public Comment

None

Visitors Arranged in Advance

None

Discussion

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

◆ BUILDINGS/OPERATIONS.

- Old Chenoa Grade School. Demolition is complete. Roger Brown and Dr. Capasso examined the demolition site and judged it to have met the requirements of the purchase/demolition agreement with Sullivan Construction. The final payment of \$127,475 was released to Sullivan and all documents for the exchange of title were signed.
- Air conditioning proposal. At the request of Dr. Capasso, the board was polled by President Brown on its feelings about comprehensive air conditioning (all rooms and all buildings). All members expressed opposition to the implementation of a comprehensive air conditioning plan at present or in the near future. The board will continue to discuss the feasibility of a limited air conditioning plan – employee workrooms and teaching computer labs - as Spring approaches.

◆ ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

- BIMP. The bill that would appropriate monies promised by the state budget has been approved by the General Assembly, but, to date, lacks the Governor's signature. Although the cash-flow status of the district is not currently in jeopardy as a result of non-action on BIMP, Superintendent Capasso reported that the expected deficit in the education fund would widen to more than \$550,000 without the increases in the state aid formula and reimbursements included in the state budget.
- House Bill 4194. This measure has been proposed by House Speaker Madigan and includes a new revenue source to be gained from an expansion of gaming in this state. The bill designates 30% of the new monies for education (roughly \$120 Million), but only 30% of that figure for school operations (the rest for school construction); and a number of accountability items. One of the latter would be a mandatory four-hour training course for all current and new school board members.

◆ CURRICULUM. The council has appointed several ad hoc committees, as described below:

- WRITING. With the return of writing to ISAT and PSAE, this committee will discuss the development of a K-12 writing curriculum for Prairie Central.
- RTI (Response to Intervention). Rtl is a research-based effort to reduce misdiagnoses of students with learning disabilities. It is an outgrowth of changes in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The emphasis of Rtl is to focus on providing more effective instruction by encouraging earlier intervention for students experiencing difficulty learning to read. Rtl, a regular education initiative as opposed to special education, must be implemented in schools by 2009 and the training of staff will be needed. The committee, headed by Ms. Hazelrigg, will begin planning PC's implementation.
- FEBRUARY 15 INSTITUTE. This group has met several times for the date is upon us. A number of topics will be available that day for the professional staff and paraprofessionals: Rtl, CPR, CPI (restraint), writing curriculum, general collaboration, math across the curriculum, autism, smartboard/United Streaming, and accommodations for special needs.
- PORTFOLIOS. This committee is charged with refining our current practice of preserving samples of student work. The idea is to pass the work samples from grade-to-grade so that appropriate lesson plans can address the patterns of performance. The question of what, exactly, ought to be placed in the portfolio files still remains.
- AMBITION. The committee has discussed issues such as student capabilities vs. pursuits, four-year vs. two-year college attendance, and the seemingly disproportionate number of students entering the workforce immediately after graduation. A number of helpful comments have been shared. There appears to be some agreement that our kids are underachieving after high school. The degree to which they underachieve and, more importantly, what to do about it, are questions to be considered.
- ◆ TECHNOLOGY. Research for a new 3-5 year tech plan is currently underway. Surveys are being issued, completed, and tabulated to get a handle on where we are and where we need to be in terms of technology.
- ◆ SECURITY.
 - CAMERAS, BUZZ-IN DOORS, MOTION SENSORS. Zeller Digital Innovations visited the district to examine our buildings for security. Westview, PCHS, and Chenoa were toured. The remainder of the buildings will be examined in a few weeks. Eventually a proposal to beef up security in the buildings will be presented to the board which will, more-than-likely, include additional security cameras, ring-in devices for front doors, and motion sensors in the hallways. The proposal will offer several options and an installment plan.
 - NOTIFICATION SYSTEM. The district is hearing proposals on notification systems. In concept, a notification system would transmit recorded telephone, e-mail, and text messages instantly to an identified district population. Such a system would have implications not only for security and emergencies, but communication in general.
- ◆ VOCATIONAL SCHOOL. Superintendent Capasso stated that a proposal was forthcoming limiting attendance at the Livingston Area Career Center to one year. Currently, students may attend two years. Capasso noted more stringent graduation requirements, a need for better PSAE preparation, high tuition costs to enroll students in the LACC, and the need to preserve Prairie Central's staff as reasons for the limitation.

Action

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| To alter agenda | Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Haberkorn that we alter the agenda to include the approval of an IMRF resolution and the change of the January 17 regular board meeting date under "New Business."
Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |
| To approve minutes | Moved by Froelich and seconded by Koehl that we approve the minutes of the November 15, 2007 regular, and the November 15 and 26, 2007 special, meetings 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 Johnson 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: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Action - Old Business

To approve levy

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Haberkorn that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$5,880,814** to be levied as a special tax for **educational** purposes.

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

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$846,481** to be levied as a special tax for **operations and maintenance** purposes.

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

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Schlatter that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$356,413** to be levied as a special tax for **transportation** purposes.

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

Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Froelich that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$89,103** to be levied as a special tax for **working cash** purposes.

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

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Johnson that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$358,195** to be levied as a special tax for **municipal retirement** purposes.

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

Moved by Froelich and seconded by Schlatter that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$358,195** to be levied as a special tax for **social security** purposes.

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

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Haberkorn that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$89,103** to be levied as a special tax for **fire prevention, safety, energy conservation, disabled accessibility, school security, and specified repair** purposes.

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

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$440,170** to be levied as a special tax for **tort immunity** purposes.

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

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Haberkorn that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$71,283** to be levied as a special tax for **special education** purposes.

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

Moved by Brown and seconded by Froelich that we hereby certify that we require the sum of **\$89,103** to be levied as a special tax for **leasing of educational facilities, or computer technology, or both, and temporary relocation expense** purposes.

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

To approve farm lease

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we approve the attached contract for the one (1)-year lease (March 15, 2008 – March 14, 2009) of six (6) acres of property north of Prairie Central Junior High School for farm purposes. Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Action - New Business

To approve IMRF resolution

Moved by Froelich and seconded by Haberkorn that we approve the attached resolution allowing the inclusion, in IMRF earnings, of compensation paid under an IRC section 125 plan or compensation directed into a premium conversion plan or flexible spending account, effective January 1, 2008.

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

To change meeting date

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Koehl that we change the scheduled January 17, 2008 regular board of education meeting to January 24, 2008.

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

To enter executive session

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Schlatter that we enter into executive session at 9:02 PM for purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; and pending litigation.

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

To return to open session

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Schlatter that we return to open session at 9:46 PM from having discussed the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; and pending litigation in executive session.

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

To appoint employees

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Haberkorn that we appoint **Heather Lueschen** as a sixth grade teacher at Prairie Central Upper Elementary School for the 2007-2008 school term, effective January 14, 2008, 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 Johnson that we appoint **Mike Reis** as an auxiliary wrestling coach at Prairie Central Junior High School for the 2007-2008 season.

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 Koehl that we adjourn at 9:50 PM.

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

President

Secretary