

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

***PENDING APPROVAL ***

February 26, 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 February 26, 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; Tonya Dieken, Junior High School Administrative Assistant; Danny Vaughan, Junior High School Principal

Employees or PCEA members present: None

Guests present: Jason Dotterer, Mark Slagel

Press present: Doris White, The Blade

Public Comment
None

Visitors Arranged in Advance
None

Superintendent's Report
◆ GENERAL

- Chatsworth and Meadowbrook honors. An "Academic Excellence Award" was bestowed on Meadowbrook Elementary by the Illinois State Board of Education for achieving at least 90% "meets" or "exceeds" in reading and mathematics on the 2008 ISAT exam. Chatsworth was also so honored, but was, in addition, made a recipient of the "Spotlight Schools Award," which is given to schools having at least 50% low income students, yet achieving at least 60% "meets" and "exceeds" in reading and math on ISAT. Only seven schools in Illinois received the combination of awards.
- Dual credit at PCHS. By taking and passing AP U.S. history, statistics, calculus, or economics, a PCHS student will earn credit toward graduation, as well as equivalent hours at Parkland Junior College. The credit, held in escrow, can then become part of a Parkland transcript, should the student attend there, or be transferred to virtually any public university and a number of private ones. Three courses will be added to the offerings in 2009-2010, bringing the total hours one can achieve to 28, the rough equivalent of a college year. Additional classes will be considered by Parkland in future years.

◆ ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Also known as the Stimulus Package, the ARRA is a \$787 Billion program put forth by the U.S. Congress and President Obama to rescue a sagging economy. Roughly \$3 Billion is designated for Illinois schools. Title I, IDEA (special education), technology, education for the homeless, and school construction are expected to be the target areas for the new money. Prairie Central hopes to receive, from the Package, a boost of \$149,000 in Title I, \$485,000 in IDEA, \$7,000 in technology, and \$200,000 in school construction. The figures are tentative, at best. More reliable figures are expected emerge in the next few weeks.
- PTELL on the ballot. Legislation is being discussed which would simplify the procedure for placing PTELL (Property Tax Limitation Law, or tax caps) on a county ballot. Under proposed legislation, a certain % of registered voters/petitioners could compel a county board to place PTELL on the ballot. Now, county boards have the choice to place, or not to place.

◆ CURRICULUM.

- February 13 institute. Cognition Works, the headliner in the morning, presented ideas on communicating with diverse student populations. Collaboration sessions for grade-level and department groups were held in the afternoon. Post-institute surveys have encouraged the committee to consider writing support, a motivational speaker, and continued collaboration the next time.
- Curriculum council.
 - *Council discussion*. The council's February discussion was described as "high level" on a number of topics related to learning at Prairie Central. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills was discussed as having a high correlation to the ACT. A committee was formed to explore the possibilities of implementing the battery.
 - *Gifted program*. The gifted committee has met several times with the purpose of planning a uniform K-12 program. At the last session, a consultant from the regional office joined the group and offered a number of models to give the discussion some focus.
 - *Portfolios*. The portfolio committee is operating in conjunction with the writing committee (which has created and presented a K-12 uniform program now in practice) in formulating a collection of student work which will help teachers better understand patterns and omissions in writing instruction.

- ◆ TECHNOLOGY. The next meeting approaches for the tech committee. The main purpose now for technology is to re-visit the implementation schedule – a fleshing out of the tech plan - and extend the document five years. The discussion will probably include Smart technology, mobile labs, and perhaps one-on-one computing.

- ◆ MUSIC. The Board gave tacit approval to a plan to replace the district's pianos over five years. The allowance for the project is \$25,000.

Discussion (Old Business)

- ◆ TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICTS. An intergovernmental agreement has been exchanged and edited several times by attorneys representing the Village of Chatsworth and Prairie Central. The Board expressed the need for (1) a meeting between members of the Village Board and Board of Education to work out areas of dispute, and (2) a meeting between Board members and the TIF manager, the process of selection for whom has already begun.

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 accept the resignation of **Linda Dooley** as a District bus monitor, effective immediately.

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

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Schlatter that we accept the resignation (retirement) of **Barb Cooper** as a café worker at Chenoa Elementary School, effective at the close of the 2009-2010 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 Haberkorn that we accept the resignation of **Heather Lueschen** as a sixth grade teacher at the Upper Elementary School, effective at the close of the 2008-2009 school term.

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

To appoint

Moved by Froelich and seconded by Koehl that we appoint **Carol Rathbun** as a District special education bus driver for the remainder of the 2008-2009 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 Koehl that we appoint **Rebecca Drayer** as head custodian at Meadowbrook Elementary school, beginning July 1, 2009, 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 Nussbaum and seconded by Haberkorn that we appoint **Carolyn Roberts** as a temporary paraprofessional at Prairie Central Junior High 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 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 Brown and seconded by Froelich that we appoint **Kyle Daniels** as freshman baseball coach at Prairie Central High School for the 2009 season, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Unit.

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

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Johnson that we appoint **Travis Johnson** as an auxiliary baseball coach at Prairie Central High School for the 2009 season.

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 approve a contract for **Michael Scott**, chief of maintenance, effective July 1, 2009 (attached).

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

To adjourn

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we adjourn at 9:58 PM.

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

President

Secretary