

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

PENDING APPROVAL

June 26, 2008

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 June 26, 2008 and was called to order by President Roger Brown at 7:05 PM in the Prairie Central Community Unit School No. 8 conference room.

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

Board members absent: Dan Froelich

Administrators present: Dr. John Capasso, Superintendent; Karen Hazelrigg, Chatsworth/Meadowbrook Elementary Principal

Employees or PCEA members present: None

Guests present: Parents in a promotion discussion

Press present: Doris White, The Blade

Public Comment

None

Visitors Arranged in Advance

None

Executive Session

Action

To enter executive session Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we enter into executive session at 7:10 PM for purposes of discussing a student matter (5 ILCS 120/2 (10)).

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

To return to open session Moved by Johnson and seconded by Schlatter that we return to open session at 9:33 PM from having discussed a student matter in executive session.

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

To promote student Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Koehl that we place student #2211011 in second grade at Chatsworth Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school term.

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

Discussion

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

◆ ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

- The State Budget. A budget was passed by the General Assembly early this month, but the Governor has yet to sign it. The Governor's position appears to be that the budget is unconstitutional in that it is not balanced, with expenditures exceeding revenues. Governor Blagojevich is considering a session with legislative leaders to discuss ways to balance the budget. The prominent feature for education is the \$225 elevation in the state aid formula foundation level. This, if approved, will help to off-set the

loss in state aid Prairie Central will incur at losing 70 students in average daily attendance. As a reminder, student attendance generates state aid.

- ◆ **BUDGET REVIEW.** The Superintendent projected end balances and expressed concern about revenues not yet received, such as state aid July payments, special education and transportation reimbursement, and McLean County early tax distributions. Weak balances will result from PC not receiving these monies in a timely manner.
- ◆ **CURRICULUM.** There are several items of interest in curriculum as Prairie Central prepares for the next school term. **Response to Intervention (Rtl)** is the now-required method of thoroughly analyzing a child's learning problems and intervening with "best practice" strategies prior to the IEP phase. In theory, it will reduce the number of special education placements. Administrators are all trained in the strategies and the district has submitted the first level of paperwork required by the State Board in anticipation of Rtl's full implementation. **Gifted education** will also be introduced as a topic of discussion by this year's curriculum council. A committee has assembled a carefully articulated **writing curriculum**. It is close to the form necessary for the curriculum council's consideration. The council will see, at its first meeting in the coming year, a report of observations and recommendations regarding **student ambition**. PC will work with IHR of Pontiac in refining a **drug education** program for 5th, 6th, and 7th graders – the critical grades.
- ◆ **BOARD GOALS.** The board reviewed updated goals as presented by the Superintendent. A more detailed review will take place at the July meeting.
- ◆ **TECHNOLOGY.** The tech crew is in the process of assembling the new laptop lab at the Junior High, placing smartboards in all the buildings, and transferring the writing lab at the High School. There is a concern about bandwidth at the Upper Elementary, Chatsworth, Meadowbrook, and Chenoa. The potential solution to the entire problem carries a price-tag of \$50,000. Some consideration is being given to spreading the project and its cost over several years.
- ◆ **TAX INCREMENT FINANCING.** Responses to recent letters sent to attorneys, mayors, and city officials regarding Chatsworth and Chenoa TIF agreements were viewed by the Board as positive. There is evidence of progress as dialogue resumes.

Action

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| To elect temporary secretary | Moved by Johnson and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint Patricia Haberkorn as temporary secretary of the Prairie Central Board of Education.
Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |
| To amend agenda | Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Koehl that we amend the agenda to include life-safety amendments under "New Business."
Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |
| To approve minutes | Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Koehl that we approve the minutes of the May 19, 2008 special and regular meetings as presented.
Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |
| To approve consent agenda | Moved by Johnson and seconded by Schlatter 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, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |

Action - Old Business

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| To approve prevailing wage | Moved by Johnson and seconded by Haberkorn that we approve a prevailing wage resolution as presented (attached)
Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried. |
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- To approve board meeting and administrative meeting schedule
 Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Koehl that we approve the board and administrative team meeting schedules as presented (attached).
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
- To approve handbook amendments
 Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Haberkorn that we approve student handbook changes for 2008-2009 as presented (attached).
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
- Action - New Business
- To accept bids
 Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Schlatter that we accept the bids of North Central Illinois Milk Distributors and Interstate Brands for milk and break commodities, respectively, for the 2008-2009 school term.
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
- To approve Title I plan
 Moved by Johnson and seconded by Koehl that we approve Prairie Central's Title I plan as presented (attached).
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
- To approve life-safety amendment
 Moved by Koehl and seconded by Haberkorn that we approve life-safety amendments for security work in all buildings, as prepared by Randall Middleton, Middleton Associates (attached).
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
- Executive Session
Action
- To enter executive session
 Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Brown that we enter into executive session at 10:33 PM for purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; and pending litigation.
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
- To return to open session
 Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Steidinger that we return to open session at 11:11 PM from having discussed the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; and pending litigation in executive session.
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
- To accept resignations
 Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Schlatter that we accept the resignation of **Julie Vaslie** as a special education teacher at Meadowbrook Elementary School, effective at the close of the 2007-2008 school term.
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.
- Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Koehl that we accept the resignation of **Greg Zalapi** as an instrumental music teacher at Prairie Central Junior High School, effective at the close of the 2007-2008 school term.
 Voting: Brown, yea; Froelich, absent; Haberkorn, yea; Johnson, yea; Koehl, yea; Schlatter, yea; Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Johnson that we accept the resignation of **Debbie Vaughan** as math coach at Prairie Central High School, effective at the close of the 2007-2008 school term.

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

To appoint employees

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we appoint **Katie Weibers** as a special education paraprofessional at Prairie Central High School for the summer, 2008, session, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Brown that we appoint **Monica Maurer** as a special education paraprofessional at Prairie Central High School for the summer, 2008, session, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Brown and seconded by Haberkorn that we transfer **Katie Cavanagh** to the position of Pre-K/At-Risk/ECSE paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Rob Fabian** as a special education paraprofessional at Prairie Central Junior High School for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Koehl that we appoint **Kathy Thyne** as a special education paraprofessional at Chatsworth Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Johnson that we appoint **Brenda Tolian** as a special education paraprofessional at Chatsworth Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we transfer **Sandra Schuler** to the post of regular-route bus driver for Prairie Central CUSD #8 for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Brown that we appoint **Linda Smith** as a part-time (three hours per day) at Prairie Central Junior High School for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Brown and seconded by Haberkorn that we appoint **Melissa Goembel** as a part-time (two hours per day) at Prairie Central High School for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **James Dooley** as a regular-route bus driver at Prairie Central CUSD #8 for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Koehl that we appoint **Tom Ellis** as a regular-route bus driver at Prairie Central CUSD #8 for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Koehl and seconded by Johnson that we appoint **Katherine Rhoads** as a regular-route bus driver at Prairie Central CUSD #8 for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Steidinger that we appoint **Bonnie Sechrest** as a full-time ECSE paraprofessional at Chenoa Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

To adjourn

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Brown that we adjourn at 11:17 PM.

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

President

Secretary