

**PRAIRIE HILL COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 133
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

October 25, 2011

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Board President TJ Larsen called the Regular Board of Education meeting of October 25, 2011 to order at 6:32 p.m. with a roll call vote and the following members answered aye to signify their presence: Mr. Aronson, Mr. Barenbaum, Mr. Bolin, Mr. Crouch, Mrs. Larsen, Mrs. Servant, and Mrs. Stitt. Also in attendance were Mr. Rehl, Superintendent and Mr. Finnegan, Principal. There were no representatives from the PHFT.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Larsen, Board President.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATION AND AUDIENCE OF VISTORS

Mrs. Larsen read Mrs. Kelly Rogers' letter of resignation her position as Pom Pom coach at the close of the basketball season.

Mrs. Larsen read a letter from Girl Scout Troop 3319 thanking the Board for the mulch used on the Butterfly Garden. This Scout troop is moving on to Hononegah next year, and is happy to have had the opportunity to create the garden and hopes that future groups will take over the management of it.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Aronson made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2011, the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2011, the September Imprest Fund, October Payment of Bills, October Payroll, the September Treasurer's Report and the September Student Activity Funds.

Mrs. Stitt seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Mr. Finnegan reported:

- Prairie Hill students earned the 2nd highest scores on the 2011 ISAT exam of any schools in the Rock River Valley. 3rd and 4th graders were tested in math and reading. The Rockford Register Star will have an article in their paper about how area schools fared.
- Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Jorgenson are testing the "SMART-Response P.E" system with their children. This system includes hand-held devices that students use to give immediate responses to questions posed by their teachers. The teachers and students are very excited about the possibilities for enhanced student engagement that offered by this system.

The Kindergarten classes went to the Royal Oaks Apple Orchard and enjoyed the trip very much.

- The Fourth Grade travelled to the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory to see first-hand some of the creatures and habitats they have been learning about in class.
- Fire Safety Week went off without a hitch, and the students were excited to climb on the fire truck and to practice fire safety drills.
- ESM took a trip to the pumpkin patch and got to pick their own pumpkins!
- The process of developing benchmarks by which to assess each student's progress is almost complete. Teachers are excited to begin using these benchmarks as they will help to focus on the child's capabilities and determine strategies for the future. These will figure prominently in the design of report cards and will need to be introduced gradually to parents.

Mr. Heiar arrived at 7:15 and Reported:

- The Fifth graders scored in the 86th percentile of students either meeting or exceeding expectations on the Reading ISATs, and the 7th graders were at 87% M/E in Reading.
- Fall music concerts were very well attended with about 450 people showing up to enjoy the bands and choirs. Congratulations students!
- 11 students auditioned for the Regional Illinois Music Educators' Association. 7 made it to the all-region band or choirs. They will be performing in DeKalb on November 12th.
- The JV Volleyball team won the conference tournament and placed first in the conference. Great season, girls! The Varsity had an amazing tournament run – they were seeded 6th, yet placed 2nd! Lots of teamwork and a gutsy attitude really paid off.
- Fall Sports Honors night was held and the athletes were recognized by their coaches with numerals, letters, or pins, depending on their years playing. The WMS Booster club provided cake and punch.
- The WMS newspaper name has been chosen – “The Paw” will be bringing us school news, movie reviews, sports highlights and even an advice column. The date for the first issue hasn't been decided.
- The Halloween Dance was widely attended and very well chaperoned with 20 parents in attendance! The Student Council made quite a lot of money from concession sales, and the students decided to make a donation to the Rockford Rescue Mission of \$300.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

There was no Finance meeting this month.

There are no Bond payments pending.

The Finance Committee requested that the Auditors present their findings at the November meeting.

Mr. Bolin moved to approve the Administrator's Compensation Report for FY11. Mr. Barenbaum seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

EDUCATION

Class sizes were shared with the Board; there are 777 students enrolled District-wide.

Mrs. Stitt mentioned that Advanced Literature Classes for 7th and 8th graders are proposed for FY13.

The English Department at WMS will be hosting Mr. Tom Reynolds, the Chair of the English department at Hononegah, to make sure our curriculum is well-aligned with the high school's.

Pick-A-Time scheduler is being tried this November to streamline the process of signing up for conferences. Currently we have this program as a free trial; if it is successful, Mr. Heiar will get details on costs to implement it fully.

POLICY

Mr. Aronson moved to approve the Second Reading of the following policies and enter them in to the Policy Manual.

- 1:10 School District Legal Status
- 1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements
- 1:30 School District Philosophy
- 2:10 School District Governance
- 2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship
- 3:10 Goals and Objectives
- 3:70 Succession of Authority
- 5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media: Usage and Conduct

Mrs. Servant seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION

No Report this month

BUILDING

No Report this month

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Rehl received no FOIA requests this month.

Mrs. Bell reported that the ids and registration packets for the IASB Conference have not yet arrived, but that she will make sure members have them as soon as possible.

Mr. Bolin moved to destroy Closed Session Meeting tapes from October 2009 to March 2010. Mr. Barenbaum seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mrs. Stitt requested that the Board make every effort to reduce paper use. Mrs. Bell will provide only agendas to visitors to meetings, unless they request otherwise.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. Bolin moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Aronson seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Willowbrook Middle School's library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Aronson, Secretary

TJ Larsen, President