

PRAIRIE HILL COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 133
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2009
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Board President T.J. Larsen called the Regular Board of Education meeting of October 26, 2009 to order at 6:30 p.m. with a roll call vote and the following members answered aye to signify their presence: Mr. Aronson, Mr. Barenbaum, Mrs. Larsen, Mrs. Servant, Mr. Sorenson and Mrs. Stitt. Also in attendance were Mr. Rehl, Superintendent, Mr. Michowski, Principal, Mr. Heiar, Principal, and Mrs. Ciciora, Mrs. Stephens, and Mrs. Davenport representing PHFT. Mr. Bolin was absent. Ms. Smith and Mrs. Pickel joined the meeting following their SMARTBoard presentation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATION AND AUDIENCE OF VISTORS

Mr. and Mrs. Blecker were present and Mrs. Blecker addressed the Board with her concerns about the amount of instructional time spent reading books for Accelerated Reader.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Aronson made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2009, September Treasurer's Report, September Imprest Fund, and Student Activity Fund as presented. Mr. Sorenson seconded the motion and the motion carried by a roll call vote with all Board members present saying aye. There were no opposing votes. Mr. Bolin was absent.

After discussion of the October Bills, Mr. Barenbaum moved to approve the October Bills and October Payroll. Mr. Aronson seconded and the motion carried by a roll call vote with all members present answering aye. There were no opposing votes. Mr. Bolin was absent.

A motion to approve the August 11, 2009 and September 29, 2009 Closed Session Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Sorenson. Mr. Barenbaum seconded and the motion carried by a roll call vote with all members present answering aye. Mr. Bolin was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

The Resolution to transfer the lease levy to Fund 20 was put aside for discussion in Closed Session for purposes of litigation.

Mr. Sorenson summarized Winnebago County's unsuccessful request that all school districts contribute to their payroll so that there would be a better chance that the tax bills would go out on time in 2010.

EDUCATION

A SMARTBoard presentation was made by Jamie Smith, Becky Christofferson, Chris Pickel, Karen Furmanek, and Sofia Lee. The lower elementary teachers are using the boards to engage their students in a variety of ways. From kindergarten, where its use during “Calendar Time” has students “skip counting” and learning coin values, to the first grade where our new “Storytown” reading program has many on-line applications to bring the curriculum to life; third grade, where students learn the points of the compass with fun, hands-on games; to music, where “Peter and the Wolf” has taken on greater richness as the students can identify individual instruments as their themes are played. The teachers are embracing this technology and are grateful to the board for providing it.

Mr. Rehl reported that a trainer from the SMARTBoard Company will be coming to PHS/WMS to provide additional training to our teachers in the next month or so. Many thanks to the teachers for an excellent, informative presentation.

Mr. Barenbaum made a motion to employ Andrea Wood as a part-time evening custodian at Prairie Hill for \$8 per hour for 4 hours per night. Mr. Aronson seconded and the motion carried by a roll call vote with all members present answering aye. Mr. Bolin was absent.

Mr. Barenbaum made a motion to hire Tracey Schmitz as a one-on-one paraprofessional at \$10 per hour for the rest for the school year. Mr. Aronson seconded and the motion carried by a roll call vote with all members present answering aye. Mr. Bolin was absent.

Mr. Rehl summarized the work done by Casey Schoonover to bring WMS and PHS on-line for the school year. He was working for \$8.50 per hour and is now finished. Mr. Barenbaum made a motion to hire Casey Schoonover for \$8.50 per hour. Mr. Aronson seconded and the motion carried by a roll call vote with all members present answering aye. Mr. Bolin was absent.

Mr. Rehl recommended that we hire James Stout at \$8.50 per hour to assist Mr. Grygiel with technology maintenance. Mr. Barenbaum made the motion that we hire James Stout at \$8.50 per hour and Mr. Aronson seconded. The motion carried by a roll call vote with all members present answering aye. Mr. Bolin was absent.

Approval of Superintendent’s performance goals was moved to closed session.

Work on Curriculum Mapping has been ongoing and given the extensive amount of work this process entails, the administrator’s have focused on the Math curriculum first. Traci Hill and Becky Christofferson will present their work on the Kindergarten through Grade 5 Math curriculum at the November Board meeting.

The student population is approximately 415 at PHS and 335 at WMS. This is an increase of about 35 students from last year.

The Parent Website Survey has been postponed until after the new website is out and people have a chance to see what it might offer. Perhaps January will be a good time to survey the parents.

Mr. Sorenson reported that the Coop is having a Risk Assessment done. They had 96 athletes participate in the Special Olympics this year. The next Special Olympics will be held March 6, 2010 at Roscoe Middle School from 12:00-2:00.

The annual Coop Dinner Meeting will be held March 2nd.

POLICY

Jeff Aronson moved to approve the First Reading of the following Policies:

- 2:20 Powers and Duties of the School Board
- 2:40 Board Member Qualifications
- 2:110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers
- 3:40 Superintendent
- 4:30 Revenue and Investments
- 4:40 Incurring Debt
- 4:100 Insurance Management
- 4:110 Transportation
- 4:140 Waiver of Student Fees
- 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria
- 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- 5:100 Staff Development Program
- 5:120 Ethics
- 5:250 Professional Personnel – Leaves of Absence
- 5:280 Educational Support Personnel – Duties and Qualifications
- 5:330 Educational Support Personnel – Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays and Leaves
- 6:110 Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program
- 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
- 7:190 Student Discipline
- 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities
- 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics
- 8:100 Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies

Mrs. Servant seconded the motion which carried unanimously by a voice vote. Mr. Bolin was absent.

The Board reviewed Policy 7:190 Student Discipline.

TRANSPORTATION

Requests have been made by bus companies to bid on our 2010-2011 student transportation contract. The bid documents are being drawn up by the business managers from the Kinnikinnick and Rockton School Districts and will be available for Board Review before being sent out to contractors.

BUILDING

No report this month.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Michowski reported that the Jog-A-Thon was a success and many parent volunteers helped make the challenge of holding the event indoors easier.

Ms. Long came up with a plan to make fire drills easier; each class has been assigned a tree on the athletic field and will line up at that tree. This makes the Principal's job of accounting for all the staff and students easier and more efficient.

PHS has had no more than 30 children absent on any given day.

Mr. Heiar reported that WMS had a high of 56 children out on Monday, 10/19, but that the numbers have stabilized to about 35 out each day.

Sarah Migas from the Illinois State Attorney's Office will come to Willowbrook to present information on Internet Safety to our students in early November.

The additional phone lines have been installed, but we can't use them yet.

Varsity Volleyball won the conference-wide tournament and took First Place in the Conference!

We are in negotiations with Art Sadler Basketball about their possible use of the WMS gym for games.

There were about 120 students at the Halloween Dance at WMS with many parents chaperoning.

A "Hard Lock Down" drill is planned for 10/28 at WMS. This is being run with the assistance of the South Beloit police department.

MISCELLANEOUS

A motion was made by Mr. Aronson to change the date of the December Regular Board Meeting to December 15th, 2009. Mr. Sorenson seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous voice vote. Mr. Bolin was absent. The new date for the December Board Meeting is December 15th at 6:30 in the Willowbrook library.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Sorenson made a motion at 9:09 p.m. to enter into closed session to discuss the Superintendent's performance goals and to discuss ongoing litigation regarding Willowbrook

Middle School. Mr. Aronson seconded and the motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. Mr. Bolin was absent.

Mr. Aronson moved to return to open session at 9:44 p.m. Mr. Sorenson seconded and the passed by a unanimous voice vote. Mr. Bolin was absent.

ADJORNMENT

Mr. Barenbaum made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Mr. Aronson seconded the motion and the motion carried with all members present answering aye. There were no opposing votes. Mr. Bolin was absent.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 24th at 6:30 p.m. at Willowbrook Middle School's library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Bolin, Secretary

TJ Larsen, President