

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

October 16, 2014

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 October 16, 2014 and was called to order by President Patricia Haberkorn at 7:01 PM in the Prairie Central High School media center.

Board members present: Jeffrey Austman, Jason Dotterer, Patricia Haberkorn, Mark Slagel, Corey Steffen, and Ann Steidinger

Board members absent: Barbara Schlatter

Administrators present: Dr. John Capasso, Superintendent; Daniel Casillas, Prairie Central High School Principal

Employees or PCEA members present: Phyllis Bellot, PCEA representative; Cheryl Hoffman, Chief of Business Operations; Phil Tetley, Technology Coordinator; Joe Cliffe, Prairie Central High School Wrestling Coach

Students present: Ryan Steidinger

Guests present: Tory Farney, Shirley Fehr, Warren Fehr, Brian Gardner, Mark Ifft, Nate Kelson, Paula Kelson, Alvin Knapp, Marcia Knauer, Stephen Knauer, Marcus Maier, Mike Moody, Duane Schneider, Mary Beth Slagel, Brad Steidinger, Dean Steidinger, Amy Zehr, Nelson Zehr.

Press present: Kent Casson, The Blade

Public Comment

All comments were about the proposed Pleasant Ridge Wind Project:

- o Brad Steidinger expressed his belief that the Project will adversely affect property values.
- o Steve Knauer brought the Board's attention to a report about a county health department in Wisconsin that recently declared the noise from wind turbines to be a health hazard.
- o Nate Kelson presented a study about turbine noise and the distance at which it becomes an issue.

Visitors Arranged in Advance

None

General Action

To approve minutes (9/18/14) Moved by Austman and seconded by Dotterer that we approve minutes of the September 18, 2014 regular meeting as amended.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To approve minutes (10/13/14) Moved by Slagel and seconded by Austman that we approve minutes of the October 13, 2014 special meeting as amended.
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To approve consent agenda Moved by Slagel and seconded by Steffen that we approve the consent agenda, which includes: activity fund report, bills (current and interim), booster proposals (including \$499 for a pole vault pit tarp), café report, financial report/summary, investment schedule, and treasurer's report.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Capasso reported on the following:

- ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS & COMMENTARY.
 - SB 16. SB 16 has passed the Senate and is now in House committee. The bill proposes a new, and arguably, fairer formula for state school funding based on a weighting system for student characteristics. Prairie Central would stand to be a “winner” should the legislation become law, garnering an additional \$670,460 per year.
- FINANCE.
 - Proposed wind farm. Having heard information about the proposed Pleasant Ridge Wind Project at two meetings, and considered the advantages and disadvantages for not only the school system, but also residents, the Board declared its position to be neutral.
 - Proposed bond issuance. The Board will take up the matter of bond issuance at its November meeting. The amount earlier proposed is \$4.33 Million, with pay-off over three (3) years, and at rate of \$.75.
- RECENT GRADUATES – IMMEDIATE FUTURE PLANS. 36 (29%) members of the Class of 2014 enrolled in four-year colleges, while 47 (37%) entered two-year schools (junior, community, or trade). Two (1%) members enlisted in the military, and 42 (33%) joined the work force. With 66% of its grads continuing education beyond high school, Prairie Central is at the national average (according to the U.S. Department of Education). The University of Illinois and Illinois State University were the top choices of four-year college enrollees; Heartland Community College and Parkland College were the most popular two-year schools.
- CURRICU-TECH COUNCIL TOPICS. Both councils have been discussing tech/curriculum integraton, science standards, standards-based report cards, vocabulary programs, and keyboarding instruction.
- TEACHER EVALUATION. A committee is formed to develop the student growth portion of the teacher evaluation instrument. Student growth will become part of the evaluation process in 2016.
- WEBSITE DISCUSSION. With the aid of tech coordinator Phil Tetley, and several examples, the board discussed the possibility of a new website. The expressed needs are for a site that is navigable, can be had at a manageable cost (for remote hosting), and is aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Tetley will continue to research and report. The goal is for a new website to be in place by the beginning of next school year.

Discussion (Old Business)

None

Discussion (New Business)

To amend Policy Manual

The Board conducted its first reading of Chapter VIII, Articles 860 – 899.

Action - Old Business

To amend Policy Manual

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Austman that we approve amendments to Board Policy Manual Articles 800.01 - 855.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Action – New Business

To authorize 5th grade wrestling

Moved by Austman and seconded by Slagel that we approve a proposal to allow 5th grade students to participate in the wrestling program at Prairie Central Junior High School for the 2014-15 school term.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Executive Session

To enter executive session

Moved by Austman and seconded by Dotterer that we enter into executive session at 9:15 PM for purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel (105 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)).

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To return to open session

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Steffen that we return to open session at 10:34 PM.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Action on Personnel

To accept resignations

Moved by Steffen and seconded by Steidinger that we accept the resignation of **Melanie Teubel** as a paraprofessional at Chenoa Elementary School, effective immediately.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To appoint

Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Dotterer that we appoint **Emily Shifflet** and **Dusti Folwell** as auxiliary girls' basketball coaches at Prairie Central Junior High School for the 2014-15 season.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Austman that we appoint **Amber Hayes** as scholastic bowl coach at Prairie Central Junior High School for the 2014-15 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Mike Wolf** as freshmen boys' basketball coach at Prairie Central High School for the 2014-15 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Steffen that we appoint **Gwen Knapp** as a special education paraprofessional at Chenoa Elementary School for the 2014-15 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

General Action

To adjourn

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we adjourn at 10:43 PM.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, absent; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

President

Secretary