

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

September 18, 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 September 18, 2014 and was called to order by President Patricia Haberkorn at 7:02 PM in the Prairie Central Community Unit School No. 8 conference room.

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

Board members absent: None

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

Employees or PCEA members present: Angie Kratochvil, PCEA president; Cheryl Hoffman, Chief of Business Operations

Guests present: Dr. David Loomis and Matt Alderman (presenters – Center for Renewable Energy, Illinois State University), Mark Aberle, Linda Ambrose, Tom Ambrose, Keith Bittner, Donna Brucker, John Dassow, Megan Dassow, Dieter Elbert, Andrew Downey, Tory Farney, Kathy Fehr, Rob Folk, Suzane Folk, Adam Followell, Jo Ellen Gehring, Karen Harms, Mark Hartman, J.R. Head, Loren Hodgson, Debbie Houberg, Mark Ifft, Cindy Kaisner, Larry Kaisner, Nate Kelson, Paula Kelson, Laura Kerber, Kelly Kinate (Precinct Committeeman), Alvin Knapp, Marcia Knauer, Steve Knauer, Tarry Knauer, Elmer Lanz, Dean Lassiter, Nina Lassiter, Marcus Maier, Tim McGreal, Dawn Metz, Richard Miller, Ann Moody, Mike Moody, Steve Rieger, Anna Schmidgall, Duane Schneider, Justin Schroen, Sharon Schrof, Al Slagel, Don Slagel, Gladys Slagel, Mary Beth Slagel, Roy Slagel, Brad Steidinger, George Steidinger, Helen Steidinger, Jane Steidinger, Joseph Steidinger, Mary Beth Steidinger, Richard Steidinger, Duane Walter, Keith Walter, Marlene Walter, Alan Whitman, Jo Whitman, Joseph Whitman, Rick Wilson.

Press present: Kent Casson, The Blade

Public Comment

Marcus Maier asked Dr. Capasso who authorized him to give a public opinion about Pleasant Ridge, and whether or not the presenters had biases on wind energy. The Board suggested that comments or questions specifically regarding the Pleasant Ridge Wind Farm be held until the presentation.

Visitors Arranged in Advance

None

General Action

To approve minutes Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Austman that we approve minutes of the August 21, 2014 regular meeting as presented.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To approve consent agenda Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Slagel that we approve the consent agenda, which includes an activity fund report, a financial summary, bills

(current and interim), an investment schedule, and a treasurer's report.  
 Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Capasso reported on the following:

- ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS & COMMENTARY. The State Superintendent's recent commentaries have been devoted principally to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), which will be rolled out this year in language arts and mathematics at grades 3-8, & 11, replacing the ISAT and PSAE. The roll-out is proving not to be a smooth one. The exam will be administered on-line at some grade levels; by paper-and-pencil at others. ISBE is checking bandwidth in all schools to determine which can and cannot handle the battery. The ACT will be state-funded for one more year and is optional for students.
- FINANCE.
  - Proposed wind farm. Dr. David Loomis and Matt Alderman from the Center for Renewable Energy, Illinois State University, made a detailed presentation and fielded questions and comments on wind energy. The following visitors or Board members made inquiries or commented:

<u>Visitor (Alphabetical Order)</u>	<u>Question/Comment</u>
Megan Dassow	Inquired how homes were selected for study on the effects of wind farms on property values.
Deter Elbert	Asked who gains financially from wind farms, how turbines are decommissioned, and the effects of tax credits.
Adam Followell	Commented that the location of a wind farm is a concern whether it is in a populated area or not.
Patricia Haberkorn	Inquired about a study of "Wind Turbine Syndrome," the beneficiaries of wind energy, and whether there are any examples of schools not benefiting financially from turbine assessment.
Loren Hodgson	Commented that California wind farms have been abandoned.
Debbie Houberg	Inquired about the life span of a typical turbine.
Mark Ifft	Commented on research that suggests the loss of soil moisture in the areas of wind farms.
Cindy Kaisner	Commented that there are health concerns with turbines.
Nate Kelson	Expressed a concern that population in the "footprint" would ultimately not be as dense as in other areas.
Kelly Kinate	Inquired about flicker and shadow associated with turbines.
Steve Knauer	Inquired how responsible Invenergy (Pleasant Ridge company) would be following construction.
Marcus Maier	Inquired about jobs created by wind farms.
Ann Moody	Expressed a concern about the effects of wind turbine income on general state aid.
Mike Moody	Inquired whether the 26% drop in property values in Odell was related to the wind farm there (Cayuga Ridge).
Sharon Schrof	Inquired if the "footprint" of Pleasant Ridge would favorably affect the community or put it in a state of decline, and commented that the way of life will be significantly impacted.
Mark Slagel	Inquired about the effect of turbines on health, and about what happens following the expiration (2016) of current turbine assessment legislation.

Mary Beth Slagel

Commented that renewable energy has a cost.

- 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.
- SIXTH-DAY ENROLLMENT (attached). Prairie Central's enrollment on the sixth day in 2014-15 was 2,153, an increase of three (3) students over the previous year. The low-income population was 969 on the same day, an increase of 55 students over the previous year, and 479 since 2004.
- TECHNOLOGY (attached). The technology overhaul consisted of infrastructure installment (wireless, band-width – all buildings), interactive white board replacement (18 either partial or complete sets), productivity computer replacement (café, library units in all buildings), teacher and administrator computer replacement, laptop lab addition (2 @ 25 units per), desktop lab replacement (10 @ 25 units per), and Chromebook lab addition (10 @ 25 units per). The overall price-tag was \$550,000, through CRST (sales tax), federal grants, activity funds, and leasing.

#### Budget Hearing

To enter hearing

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we enter the budget hearing under 105 ILCS 5/17-1 at 10:21 PM.

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

To return to open session

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Austman that we return to open session at 10:40 PM.

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

#### Discussion (Old Business)

None

#### Discussion (New Business)

To amend Policy Manual

The Board conducted its first reading of Chapter VIII, Articles 800.01 – 855.

#### Action - Old Business

To approve budget

Moved by Steffen and seconded by Schlatter that we approve the FY15 budget as presented (attached).

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

To amend Policy Manual

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Dotterer that we approve amendments to Board Policy Manual Articles 100 - 130.

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

#### Action – New Business

None

#### Executive Session

To enter executive session

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Austman that we enter into executive session at 10:22 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, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To return to open session

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Schlatter that we return to open session at 11:11 PM.

Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, yea; 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 **Jeannea Shier**, with intent to retire, as an FCS teacher and FCCLA sponsor at Prairie Central High School, effective at the close of the 2014-15 school term.

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

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Haberkorn that we accept the resignation of **Megan Lakaff** as assistant girls' track coach at Prairie Central High School, effective at the close of the 2013-14 school term.

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

Moved by Austman and seconded by Dotterer that we accept the resignation of **Dennis Greear**, with intent to retire, as a District bus driver, effective at the close of the 2013-14 school term.

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

To appoint

Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Dotterer that we appoint **Kim Kilcullen** as a special education paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Elementary School for the 2014-15 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Austman that we appoint **Melissa Goembel** as a special education paraprofessional at Chatsworth Elementary School for the 2014-15 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Michelle Honegger** as a pre-kindergarten teacher at Westview Elementary School for the 2014-15 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Steffen that we appoint **Melanie Teubel** 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, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, yea; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Austman and seconded by Haberkorn that we appoint **Krista Leman** as a 3-hour/day café worker at Meadowbrook Elementary School for the 2014-15 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Steffen and seconded by Slagel that we appoint **Cindy Harrell** as a 5 ¼ hour/day café worker at Chatsworth Elementary School for the 2014-15 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Catherine Pasakamis** as a District bus monitor for the 2014-15 school term, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

General Action

To adjourn

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we adjourn at 11:59 PM.

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

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President

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Secretary