

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

January 15, 2015

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 January 15, 2015 and was called to order by President Patricia Haberkorn at 7:00 PM in the Prairie Central CUSD #8 Unit Office Conference Room.

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

Board members absent: Corey Steffen

Administrators present: Dr. John Capasso, Superintendent

Employees or PCEA members present: Phyllis Bellot, Prairie Central Education Association; Cheryl Hoffman, Prairie Central CUSD #8 Chief of Business Operations

Students present: None

Guests present: Randy Holland

Press present: Kent Casson, *The Blade*

Public Comment

None

Visitors Arranged in Advance

None

General Action

To approve minutes

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we approve minutes of the December 18, 2014 regular meeting as presented.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, absent; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To approve consent agenda

Moved by Austman and seconded by Schlatter that we approve the consent agenda, which includes: Activity fund report, bills (current and interim), booster proposals, café report, financial report/summary, investment schedule, and treasurer's report.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, absent; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Hearing

To enter hearing

Moved by Schlatter and seconded by Dotterer that, at 7:06 PM, we enter a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell \$4,330,000 in working cash fund bonds.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, absent; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Hearing:

President Haberkorn

- Stated the purpose of the hearing
- With Superintendent Capasso, gave reasons for issuing \$4.33 Million in working cash fund bonds

- Deficit spending in education, transportation funds
- Significantly reduced state funding
- Widening gap between the cost of educating (needs of) children and revenues
- Diminishing working cash fund
- Asked for comments from Board members
  - The Board inquired about the bond rate. The new bond would require a 75-cent rate to pay off the bonds in three years, which will likely mean a reduction of 37 cents for most Prairie Central citizens, but a 65-cent increase for Chenoans (due to difference in bond structuring in former districts)
- Asked for written and oral comments from the public; received none

To return to open session

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we return to open session at 7:14 PM.

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

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Capasso reported on the following:

#### ○ ISBE/LEGISLATIVE NEWS & COMMENTARY.

- Transition Report to the Governor-Elect (Education). The report argues that Illinois' educational system, although doing its best, suffers from dated technology, a complex *School Code*, the lack of school options, a disconnect level-to-level (early childhood - K-12 - higher education - career preparation), too many school districts (a lack of efficiency) leading to unnecessary levels of expensive bureaucracy, and inadequate funding. The Report suggests the following be sought: A system of support and accountability; smooth transition points; fair access to quality education; strong leadership; appropriate infrastructures, data systems, technology; and administrative effectiveness.

- FINANCE. With word that personal and corporate income tax rates will be rolled back, state funding for schools will be further reduced for the current fiscal year. It is estimated that Prairie Central will lose an additional \$1.1 Million, forcing the use of \$1.8 Million in working cash funds to cover deficits in education and transportation, rather than the budgeted \$700,000.

#### ○ TECHNOLOGY.

- Website study. The Board viewed an example of an Area 4-sponsored site, which also has a mobile version. Area 4 will produce a model front page for Prairie Central as the study continues.
- PCUE tower. The internet tower at Prairie Central Upper Elementary School will need to be replaced. The estimated cost is in the vicinity of \$25,000.

- BUILDING/GROUNDS. The Board gave tacit approval for the District's architect to draw up specifications for the replacement of the Westview Elementary School roof.

- SCHOOL CALENDARS. The 2014-15 calendar, with recent emergency days noted; and a prospective 2015-16 calendar were reviewed.

### Discussion (Old Business)

None

### Discussion (New Business)

None

### Action - Old Business

None

Action – New Business

To authorize bid materials

Moved by Austman and seconded by Dotterer that we authorize the bidding of a price-per-gallon for bulk diesel fuel in the amount of 60,000 gallons.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, absent; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

To approve resolutions

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Austman that we approve the attached resolution on Vision 20/20.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, absent; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Schlatter that we approve the attached resolution on **Fred Kilcullen**, who recently completed 50 years as a bus driver.

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

To approve van purchase

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we approve the purchase of a 2003 Dodge Caravan for purposes of transporting food between cafés.  
Voting: Austman, yea; Dotterer, yea; Haberkorn, yea; Schlatter, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, absent; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Executive Session

To enter executive session

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Schlatter that we enter into executive session at 8:15 PM for purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of personnel; and bargaining issues (105 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1-2)).

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

To return to open session

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Schlatter that we return to open session at 9:56 PM.

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

Action on Personnel

To appoint

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Austman that we appoint **Lauren Kellar** as sophomore softball 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, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, absent; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Schlatter that we transfer **Sarah Cox** from the position of special education teacher at Chatsworth Elementary School to the position of special education teacher at Prairie Central Upper Elementary School for the remainder 2014-15 school term, effective January 5, 2015, in accordance with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

Moved by Steidinger and seconded by Haberkorn that we appoint **Joey Reis** as an auxiliary wrestling coach at Prairie Central High School for the 2014-15 season.

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

Moved by Slagel and seconded by Dotterer that we appoint **Mark Ifft** as an auxiliary wrestling coach at Prairie Central Junior High School, and as an auxiliary girls' track coach at Prairie Central High School, for the 2014-15 school term.

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

Moved by Haberkorn and seconded by Schlatter that we appoint **Joe Moore** as a junior class sponsor 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, yea; Slagel, yea; Steffen, absent; and Steidinger, yea. Motion carried.

General Action

To adjourn

Moved by Dotterer and seconded by Schlatter that we adjourn at 10:03 PM.

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

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President

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Secretary