

MINUTES OF PHILLIPS BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
Monday, August 15, 2022

- I. The Phillips Board of Education regular Board meeting was called to order by President Pesko at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office/Early Learning Center Commons. The Pledge of Allegiance was done.
- II. Present: Baxter, Bilgrien, Denzine, Fox, Halmstad (virtual), Krog, Pesko, and Student Liaison Bjork. Absent: Rose, Van de Voort
- III. Administration present: Superintendent Morgan, Business Manager Lehman, Principal Scholz and Wellman, and Pupil Services Director Peterson. Others: Staff and community members. The meeting was available via Zoom for online attendance.
- IV. President Pesko stated that public notice of the meeting was properly posted according to Wisconsin Statute 19.84(4). Notice was posted at all school-owned buildings, the School District of Phillips' website, and the Price County Review.
- V. Public Participation - Shirley Smith commented that the current Ethics Policy is working and should be removed from the policy agenda.
- VI. Brian Roush and Aaron Hickerson from the Price County Sheriff Department presented the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program and how it would work with our Grade 5 students. The Board consensus was to move ahead with Principal Scholz and Deputy Hickerson working on a schedule.
- VII. Administrative and Committee Reports
  - A. Dave Scholz, Elementary Principal
    1. First day of STAR testing for elementary students was today.
    2. DEMCO donation of school supplies (approximate value of \$50,000) was made to the elementary school and high school library.
    3. Teacher training on Orton Gillingham will be held this week. A number of teachers attended an inservice this summer on this program to help struggling students.
    4. Once the playground equipment is moved, we lose our lifetime warranty. Components are being checked and replaced ahead of time.
    5. Library shelving and tables for the work room and conference room are coming this week.
  - B. Kevin Wellman, 6-12 Principal
    1. The new fine arts center renovations are almost complete. Classrooms are close to completion, the kitchen painting is progressing well, the front parking lot is done and work is being done to be ready for the open house.
    2. Cell phones will not be used in K-8 classrooms. Students must leave them in their lockers.
    3. A presentation on the Wisconsin High School Esports Association was made to the Board and discussion was held on the possibility of creating teams here in Phillips.
  - C. Kate Peterson, Pupil Services Director
    1. In the 2022-2023 school year, there were three incidents of seclusion and three physical restraints at the elementary involving a total of four students, all with disabilities.
  - D. Rick Morgan, Superintendent

1. Two meetings have been held with custodial staff and one more is scheduled this week to discuss job positions, cross-training, and snow removal equipment training. The transition time has been good to see how a new structure will work.
  2. Logger Camp update - The new storage facility needs a door and steel siding to be completed. The green space is looking good for fall sports. The sound system issue is being addressed. The old building is ready to be moved as soon as we have equipment to facilitate the move. The next step is to improve the area behind the bus garage. Bathroom/locker rooms issues are being addressed.
  3. The superintendent will have an official retirement notice at the next meeting. The Board will be moving forward with how to replace the position.
- E. Student Liaison Alec Bjork introduced himself. With his involvement in sports and clubs, he feels he is a good fit for this year's liaison. Reports will begin next month.
- F. Policy committee meeting met on August 11, 2022 and discussed:
1. Reviewed Policy #830 Community Use of Building and Facilities and discussed input from legal counsel and insurance on making provisions for civic groups to use the facilities with alcohol involved. This would take a revision of the policy if the Board goes in this direction.
  2. Discussion continued on the use of electronic devices during Board meetings.
  3. Discussion continued on the ethics policy language. Superintendent Morgan would like closure on this item so other related items can be discussed.
  4. Policy #453.4 and Series 200 policies are listed under items for future meetings.
- G. Facilities and transportation committee met on August 12, 2022 and discussed:
1. Facility items included summer work projects, lockers, annual pool cleaning being scheduled, moving of playground equipment, installation of band cabinets and elevator inspection due. Will request the City of Phillips return Turner Street to two-way traffic.
  2. Transportation items included some bus issues being dealt with, potential rebate available for electric or propane bus from a grant, propane price was locked in, and a van was sold through auction for \$4,000.00.
  3. There will be an extended facilities committee meeting next month.
- H. Business services committee met on August 12, 2022 and discussed:
1. Construction update included: the second coat of black top laid and painting will begin soon, lower lot needs to be reconfigured. Elementary move in progress has gone well. Band storage cabinets will be assembled and installed by Miron. There is a delay on the elementary lunch room door, auditorium is close to completion, glass entry for auditorium is still in progress. Playground equipment move will be delayed due to company issues.
  2. Reviewed staffing update and current vacancies.
  3. Building maintenance team has met twice and continues to be a work in progress.
  4. Employee compensation requests will be discussed in closed session.
  5. Aspirus is not able to provide an in-person therapist this year. DOTCOM will provide a similar contract to last year for a cost of about \$35,000.00.
  6. Other items included a mentor for non-certified staff, a change in holiday language for 9-month employees (replace Memorial Day with Good Friday), snow day policy, cell phone policy, substitute positions, and grant claims.
  7. Regular agenda was reviewed and bills will be reviewed before Monday's board meeting.

- VII. Items for Discussion and Possible Action
- A. Construction update was discussed earlier in the meeting.
  - B. The staffing update was discussed earlier in the meeting.
  - C. Motion (Krog/Baxter) to approve Forward Bank, Local Government Investment Pool, Prevail Bank, and American Deposit Management Company as designated depositories for the School District of Phillips. Motion carried 7-0.
  - D. Motion (Denzine/Krog) to approve the publication of all required notices by the District in appropriate forms as listed. Motion carried 7-0.
  - E. Motion (Baxter/Bilgrien) to approve Kevin Wellman as special education LEA for the District. Motion carried 7-0.
  - F. Motion (Fox/Pesko) to approve the student handbook language concerning cell phone usage for elementary and middle school students as presented by administration. Motion carried 7-0.
  - G. Discussion was held on how to handle school closure days. Last year we used a virtual platform (approximately three hours of instruction) and had differing responses from parents. Board members will discuss with their constituents and this will be an action item for September.
  - H. Motion P(Krog/Baxter) to approve Employee Handbook change in designated holiday for 9-month staff from Memorial Day to Good Friday. Motion carried 7-0.
  - I. Motion (Fox/Denzine) to approve DOTCOM Therapy contract for 2022-2023 for occupational therapy for \$35,030. Motion carried 7-0.
- VIII. Consent Items - Motion (Krog/Baxter) to approve the following consent items. Motion carried 7-0.
- A. Minutes from July 18, 2022 Board Meeting.
  - B. Personnel report
    - 1) Hiring of Cristina Errickson, PHS science teacher; MacKenzie Schloer, Laci Boettcher, Gina Logan and Stephanie Litvinoff as PES paraprofessionals; Serina Soul, PhMS paraprofessional; Moved Jessica Curler to 4K teacher; Kaitlyn Ellingen, long-term substitute for early childhood special education; Courtney Gilge as long-term substitute for Grade 2; Cheri Tingo, interim middle school volleyball coach; Brady Bolz, middle school football head coach; Amy Ring, varsity boys basketball coach; Brady Bolz, junior varsity boys basketball coach; Courtney Shipley, junior varsity volleyball coach.
    - 2) Accepted resignations from Jessica Otto, PES paraprofessional; Angela Lenz, PhMS paraprofessional; and Courtney Gilge as ASP coordinator.
  - C. Approve bills from July (#350305-350314, 350341-350360, 350365-350404 and wires) for a total of \$788,261.01.
- IX. The next regular board meeting will be held on September 19, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the Phillips High School Performing Arts Center with the Open House at 7:00 pm.
- IX. Motion (Krog/Fox) to convene into executive session at the conclusion of open session pursuant to WI Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, retirement, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility Motion carried 7-0 with roll call vote at 7:35 p.m.
- Compensation requests for 2022-23
- X. The Board may reconvene into open session pursuant to WI Stat. Sec. 19.85(1), if necessary, to act on motions made during the executive session.

- XI. Motion (Krog/Denzine) to reconvene into open session. Motion carried 7-0 at 8:43 p.m.
- XII. Motion (Fox/Krog) to direct the superintendent to provide feedback regarding employee compensation as directed by the Board. Motion carried 7-0 with roll call vote.
- XIII. Motion (Krog/Halmstad) to adjourn. Motion carried 9-0 at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Baxter, Clerk  
Board of Education

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILLIPS

Price County Review  
P.O. Box 170  
Phillips, Wisconsin 54555

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

Minutes of School Board Meeting  
August 15, 2022  
6:00 PM

---

Anne Baxter, Clerk  
Board of Education