

MINUTES OF PHILLIPS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Monday, March 20, 2023

- I. Opening Items.
  - A. The Phillips Board of Education regular meeting was called to order by President Pesko at 6:00 p.m. in the PHS Performing Arts Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
  - B. Present: Baxter, Bilgrien, Denzine, Fox, Halmstad, Krog, Pesko, Rose, Van De Voort and Student Liaison Bjork. Administration present: Superintendent Morgan, Business Manager Lehman, Principals Scholz and Wellman, and Pupil Services Director Peterson. Others: Staff, students, and community members. The meeting was available through the District Livestream station.
  - C. 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.
- II. Public Participation
  - A. Parent concerns were voiced regarding the treatment of students at school and access to school by homeschooled students.
  - B. Several community members spoke in reference to social media posts involving a staff member.
- III. Administrative Report - Elementary Principal Dave Scholz
  - A. Thirty-two community/staff members participated as readers for Dr. Seuss Day.
  - B. National Breakfast Week was March 6-10, 2023. Many parents participated in breakfast with their students.
  - C. Northwoods Dentistry was in the building to apply sealants.
  - D. The 4K Roundup flyers are out and two open house days have been scheduled.
  - E. DARE program participants had their pizza party and a graduation program is set for March 29th.
  - F. Forward Testing is scheduled for April. A low-stress approach is being taken to testing this year with tests being done as part of the regular curriculum to reduce test anxiety.
  - G. A third attempt at a Bingo night will be held this week. Ten baskets were made by grade level teachers or employment groups for a drawing at the end of the night.
- IV. Administrative Report - Middle/High School Principal Kevin Wellman
  - A. Students of the month were: Cecilia Lorenz (6th), Dakota Finch (7th), Chase Mabie (8th).
  - B. Winterfest royalty were Jevin Setterman and Solita Kaster.
  - C. Naomi Nyberg earned a Marawood Conference Art Medal at the recent art show.
  - D. There will be testing in the high school this week. The middle school students will be out of the building at bowling and a movie to create a quieter atmosphere for testing.
  - E. Jackson Grendys was announced as the PHS 2023 Technical Excellence Scholarship recipient. He shared his thanks and plans to attend CVTC for gas utility work.
- V. Administrative Report - Pupil Services Director Kate Peterson reported that Rebecca Macholl has done a great job in preparing teachers and students for the upcoming ACT testing.

- VI. Administrative Report - Superintendent Rick Morgan
  - A. The remaining funds from the referendum project of \$375,116.59 will be used in ways allowed by the referendum. The business services committee will be looking at options at their April meeting.
  
- VII. Administrative Report -Student Liaison Alec Bjork updated the Board on the winter sports achievements, the FBLA trip to Milwaukee, Quiz Bowl tournaments, and the start of spring sports.
  
- VIII. Board Committee Reports
  - A. The curriculum committee met on March 8th and discussed:
    - 1) The process for review of current curriculum in reference to state standard revisions being completed from 2020 - 2026.
    - 2) A curriculum survey will be sent to middle/high school teachers regarding age and effectiveness of current materials.
    - 3) Anne Baxter will reach out to the incoming superintendent for input.
  - B. Revenue committee met on February 16th and discussed:
    - 1) No update this month on the greenhouse/aquaponics project.
    - 2) Reviewed a letter from PATH (Price Area Trail Hub) group regarding fundraising for the construction of a classroom building. Committee discussed funding levels for naming rights.
  - D. Facilities and transportation committee met on February 16th and discussed:
    - 1) Maintenance update included planer/joiner wiring/hookup in the shop area, Excel energy upgrades, scrubber rebuild/purchase, oven issues in FACE classroom, heating system issues, and urinal flushing system costs.
    - 2) Transportation update included bus maintenance lists and costs, and frozen fuel tank issue.
  - E. Business services committee met on March 8th and discussed the following after a closed session:
    - 1) BoardDocs training for new meeting program.
    - 2) Reviewed current staffing vacancies - aide hiring, IT position, coaches filled, and retirement.
    - 3) No update on FEMA grant until July.
    - 4) The administrative team will provide structural review of student services and the building grounds director position for Monday's meeting.
    - 5) A survey has gone out from the compensation committee to staff.
    - 6) Special education teacher job description update from Kate Peterson
    - 7) Lyn Ludwig presented a grant opportunity for core trail network. A letter of support will be written.
    - 8) Documents for CESA #12 resolution to dispose of property for Monday's meeting.
    - 9) School Perceptions superintendent transition service document was reviewed.
    - 10) Discussion on possible credit for theater group participation or extra curricular activities.
    - 11) The regular meeting agenda and January bills were reviewed.
  
- IX. Items for Discussion and Possible Action
  - A. The 2022-2023 staffing report was covered by the business services committee report. Teacher postings will begin this week for the 2023-2024 school year.

- B. Jon Pesko, Becky Denzine, Anne Baxter, and Britt Bilgrien all expressed interest in distributing diplomas at the 2023 graduation ceremony.
  - C. The administrative team is finalizing the CESA #12 services for the 2023-2024 contract. The contract will be presented for approval in April.
  - D. The Board and administration are invited to a CESA #12 dinner and program on Thursday, May 4th in Hayward.
  - E. Motion (Krog/Baxter) to approved Resolution to Authorize CESA #12 to Dispose of Real Property at 618 Beaser Avenue, Ashland, WI with first \$75,000 received going into the CESA #12 building fund and any remaining funds split equally between all CESA #12 member schools. Motion carried 9-0.
  - F. Motion (Baxter/Denzine) to approved payment to CESA #12 for \$11,764.70 over three years for the purchase of their new building. Total cost to the District is \$35,294.12. Motion carried 9-0.
- X. Consent Agenda Items Motion (Van De Voort/Halmstad) to approve the following consent items. Motion carried 9-0.
- A. Minutes from February 20, 2023 Board meeting
  - B. Personnel report
    - 1. Hiring of Tracy Lasky and Hannah Woldruff as paraprofessionals; Lyn Ludwig, girls varsity soccer coach; TJ Podmolik, assistant baseball coach.
    - 2. Accepted resignation from Chelsie McReynolds, paraprofessional (2 months) and termination of Poetic Zimmerman, paraprofessional (1 month).
    - 3. Retirement requests accepted from Brent Zierer and Sally Floyd.
  - C. Approve bills from February 2023 (#351202 - 351331 and wires) for a total of \$1,286412.12.
- XI. The next regular board meeting is on April 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Phillips High School Performing Arts Center.
- XII. Motion (Krog/Denzine)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 at 6:41 PM. Motion carried 9-0 with roll call vote.  
 . \* Organization structure of Building & Grounds Director Position  
 \* Student Services Reorganization
- XIII. Motion (Krog/Denzine) to reconvene into open session pursuant to WI Stat. Sec. 19.85(1), if necessary, to act on motions made during the executive session.
- XIV. Action Item - Motion (Denzine/Bilgrien) to support administrator's planned changes to pupil services as presented. Motion carried 9-0.
- XV. Motion (Krog/Rose) to adjourn at 7:36 PM. Motion carried 9-0.

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  
March 20, 2023  
6:00 PM

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Anne Baxter, Clerk  
Board of Education