



**Prairie Heights Community School Corporation**  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**March 17, 2025**

**Administration Office**

**MINUTES**

The Prairie Heights Community Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in the administration office. Those in attendance were as follows: Jeff Reed, Todd Perkins, Aaron Pfafman, Jesslyn Senecal, Heather Culler, Jamie Staton, Andy Arndt, Brian Wesson, Andrew Scheidler, Kayden Tuttle, and Christine Orr. The meeting was called to order by President Todd Perkins at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Public Comments: None

A motion was made by Heather Culler to approve the following consent items:

- Approval of the February 17, 2025 minutes
- Approval of the February 25 and March 10, 2025 Payroll
- Approval of the March 2025 Claims
- Approval of Employment
  - New Hires: Steve Cuatt Jr. – Middle School Track Coach, Quinn Kurtz – Varsity Football Assistant Coach (volunteer), Sam Zolman – Varsity Assistant Boys Track Coach (volunteer), Sam Hartman – Varsity Assistant Boys Track Coach (volunteer), Nina Keister – Long-term maternity leave fourth grade, Shauna DeRidder – Middle School Paraprofessional
  - Reassignments: Ryder Moore – Varsity Football Assistant Coach (paid) to Varsity Football Assistant Coach (volunteer)
  - Resignations: Bill Morr – Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, Savanna Livengood – Middle School Track Coach, Jennifer Holden – Eighth Grade Volleyball Coach, Patricia McCormick – Fifth Grade English Teacher, Mairyn Gutierrez – ELL Paraprofessional, Rebecca Rasler – Seventh/Eighth Grade Special Education Teacher, Jamie Staton – Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach (volunteer), Brett Smith – Head Varsity Wrestling Coach
  - Retirements:

The motion was seconded by Aaron Pfafman and approval was 5-0.

Public Hearings for the Renovation of and Improvements to Prairie Heights High School and the Renovation of and Improvements to Prairie Heights Middle School, Prairie Heights Elementary School, and Agricultural Building.

President Todd Perkins opened the public hearing for the projects and turned the hearing over to Mr. Reed to describe the purpose of the hearings, needs and overview of the projects, and the financial impact of the projects.

Mr. Reed explained to the Board that under Indiana law, whenever a school corporation proposes to construct or renovate a school building at a cost in excess of one million dollars it must first hold a public hearing. Notices of the public hearings was published in The Lagrange Standard on March 5, 2025 and in the Steuben Herald-Republican on March 5, 2025.

It was further explained that at this hearing all interested people may give testimony and/or ask questions concerning the renovation of and improvements to Prairie Heights High School, including site improvements and the purchase of equipment and technology (collectively, the "High School Project"). The purpose of the hearing is two-fold: (1) To inform the public as to the proposed High School Project; and (2) To allow all interested parties, taxpayers, and patrons of the School Corporation to voice their opinions as to the High School Project and ask any questions.

It was further explained that at this hearing all interested people may give testimony and/or ask questions concerning the Renovation of and Improvements to Prairie Heights Middle School and Prairie Heights Elementary School, including site improvements, renovations to the Agricultural Building, and the purchase of equipment and technology (collectively, the "Elementary/Middle School Project," which collectively with the High School Project shall collectively be referred to as the "Projects.") The purpose of the hearing is two-fold: (1) To inform the public as to the proposed Elementary/Middle School Project; and (2) To allow all interested parties, taxpayers, and patrons of the School Corporation to voice their opinions as to the Elementary/Middle School Project and ask any questions.

After the purpose of the hearing was explained, the presentations regarding the need for each of the Projects were given. An evaluation of the existing facilities was then presented, as well as a discussion of the details of each of the proposed Projects. The estimated cost and schedules for each of the Projects were then presented to the Board and the public. It was explained how each of these Projects could be funded, and the potential tax rate impact each of the Projects would have on the community.

After the above presentations, Mr. Reed asked if there were any public comments, testimony, or questions related to the Projects. There were no questions or testimony from the public. Jamie Staton made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the proposed Projects. Jesslyn Senecal seconded the motion and approval was 5-0.

A motion was made on the following Action Items:

- Heather Culler moved to approve the adoption of the Project Resolution-High School Project at a cost of more than one million dollars per building. Aaron Pfafman seconded the motion and approval was 5-0.

- Jesslyn Senecal moved to approve the adoption of the Project Resolution-Middle School, Elementary School Project at a cost of more than one million dollars per building. Heather Culler seconded the motion and approval was 5-0.
- Jamie Staton moved to approve the adoption of the Reimbursement Resolution. Aaron Pfafman seconded the motion and approval was 5-0.
- Heather Culler moved to approve the Resolution to Transfer Amounts from Education Fund to Operations Fund in the amount of \$350,000. Jamie Staton seconded the motion and approval was 5-0.
- Jesslyn Senecal moved to approve the High School Graduation date as Friday, May 30, 2025. The Baccalaureate Ceremony will be held at 6:00 pm in the High School Auditorium followed by the graduation ceremony at 7:00 pm in the main gymnasium. Aaron Pfafman seconded the motion and approval was 5-0.
- Jesslyn Senecal moved to approve the First Reading of ISBA Policies. Aaron Pfafman seconded the motion and approval was 5-0.
- Jamie Staton moved to approve the Purchase of two Activity Buses from Thomas at a total cost of \$206,388. Heather Culler seconded the motion and approval was 5-0.

Principals gave building updates. Mr. Reed showed the Board a graph from the DOE illustrating textbook rental costs vs. reimbursement rates. It was noted that we will be receiving less money from the state reimbursement compared to our actual cost. Mr. Reed also acknowledged and thanked Christine Orr, CFO for the excellent audit that we just received. There were no findings on the audit report.

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Adjournment was at 6:35 pm.

Documents were signed.