

Princeton R-V Board of Education Meeting (May 13th, 2024) Press Release

The Princeton R-V Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 13th, 2024. The following highlights of the board meeting included:

Board of Education Meeting

The consent agenda was approved consisting of Call Meeting to Order

- Approve April 8th, 2024 Board of Education Minutes
- Approve Bills for Payment and Any Necessary Fund Transfers

Announcements

- Last Day of School – Friday, May 17, 2024- Early Out at 12:30
- June Board Meeting- June 10th at 5:30pm
- Special Board Meeting regarding the budget--Tuesday, June 25th at 5:30pm
- There will be no July Board meeting.

Public Participation

A community member expressed gratitude for the district's efforts in recognizing and appreciating school bus drivers. A concern was shared about student safety, specifically regarding interactions between student vehicles and school buses in the afternoon.

Old Business

- The board approved an increase in insurance premiums for the 2024-2025 school year. The base PPO plan will cost \$708.58, reflecting a 17% increase from the previous year, and will be fully covered by the school district. The base HSA plan will cost \$602.74, with the district contributing an additional \$105.84 to each employee's HSA account.
- The Board of Education reviewed a recommendation from school administrators to implement a process for random drug testing of students. With the recent legalization of marijuana and the continued rise of drug use and abuse among youth, the school remains committed to deterring and preventing student drug use. Under this proposed program, students in grades 7-12 would be required to consent to random drug screenings as a condition for participating in all extracurricular activities.

Students who test positive for drugs or violate the screening process may face suspension or exclusion from these activities. It is important to note that the sanctions in the proposed policy focus solely on limiting opportunities for participation in extracurricular activities. Any violations of the district's discipline policy regarding drugs and alcohol will be subject to the appropriate consequences as outlined in the policy.

The Board of Education will review additional information at the June board meeting to discuss and assess the proposed drug testing program. Community input is highly encouraged during this evaluation period, and all are invited to provide feedback to board members or administration as part of the review process. Several neighboring school districts, including South Harrison, Stanberry, Milan, Brookfield, Worth County, King City, Albany, Putnam County, and Green City, already have established testing programs in place.

New Business

- The Board approved Princeton R-V's participation in the Career Ladder Program for the 2024-2025 school year. This program provides salary supplements for teaching staff, compensating them for additional responsibilities and voluntary efforts that are not already compensated in some form. The Career Ladder Program operates as a matching fund initiative, with up to 60 percent of the additional salary supplements funded by state grants, while the remaining 40 percent, along with any related benefit costs, is covered by local revenue sources. This grant is subject to annual appropriation.
- The Board of Education rejected all bids for the 2024-2025 bank depository services. The administration received two bids: one was submitted an hour after the deadline, and the other lacked details on specific fees for certain services. The district will re-advertise for bids and aims to approve a proposal at the June board meeting.
- The school board approved a proposal by Quality Network Solutions (QNS) to maintain the district's networks, computer hardware, software, and firewalls. This three-year agreement will commence on July 1, with an annual fee of \$27,832. Previously, the district shared a technology director with three other districts. However, due to the increase in devices and network complexities, the district decided to

seek additional resources to address its technology needs. The district will also continue to employ part-time onsite support, including Kami Stark and Rob Koon.

- The Board of Education approved an invitation for Cainsville to participate in grades 7-12 football through a cooperative agreement with MSHSAA. Previously, Princeton had a co-op with Mercer and, more recently, with the addition of Newtown-Harris. High school football co-ops are permitted with a maximum of three schools, provided the total enrollment for grades 9-11 remains under 150 students. In recent years, participation from Mercer has declined, with only two students participating last year. Upon reviewing next year's anticipated participation numbers, it was discovered that Mercer would not be sending any athletes. With this information, the athletic director reached out to Cainsville, which indicated that they have several students interested in playing. The co-op agreement is valid for one year. The existing Co-Op agreement with Mercer will expire this school year.

The board entered closed session at approximately 6:30PM

Announcements from Closed Session

- 1) The Board approved an extra duty assignment for Dr. Ussery as District Special Education Director and JH/HS SPED Supervisor.
- 2) The Board approved an extra duty assignment for Ms. Puls as Elementary SPED Supervisor.
- 3) The Board approved all non-certified staff for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 4) The Board accepted the resignation of Scott Ussery, Assistant Football Coach.
- 5) The Board accepted the resignation of Derek Power, Junior High Girls Basketball Coach.
- 6) The Board accepted the retirement of Meri Power, Cook.
- 7) The Board approved the hiring of Tamme Schwartzkopf as Parents As Teachers Coordinator.
- 8) The Board approved the hiring of Ranae Shahan as Extra Duty Prom Coordinator.