Van Buren Board of Education
Minutes of the Board of Education
Regular Meeting

November 8, 2021

Amy Pearce called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Darlene Loyer Gerick, Susan Featheringill, Simone Pinter, Amy Pearce, Dionne Falconer and Kelly Owen. Calvin Hawkins was absent. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Peter Kudlak, Abdul Madyun, Director of Human Resources, Karen Johnston, Director of Student Services, Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction and Sara Cortese, Director of Finance. James Williams, Director of Plant Operations was absent.

Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Dionne Falconer that the Board approves the agenda as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Questions and Comments from the Audience - Agenda Items - A. Mears asked if there was or will be an exit interview with Sarah Igonin? Mr. Kudlak said that an exit interview is available to everyone that leaves.

Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Dionne Falconer to approve the consent agenda as presented; Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 25, 2021; Minutes from the Closed Session of October 25, 2021; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Sarah Igonin, McBride Middle School, 2 years of service, Resigned for job opportunity effective 11/6/21; Cynthia Labor, Edgemont Elementary Teacher, Hired effective 10/27/21; Kris Mysliwiec, Owen Intermediate Special Education Teacher, Hired effective 11/15/21; Kori Buford, BHS Teacher, Hired effective 11/15/21; Carly Duey, Tyler Elementary Teacher, Hired effective 11/10/21; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: Kristin Dewey, Transportation, 6 years of service, Terminated effective 10/21/21; Kyle Price, Plant Operations, Less than 1 year of service, Resigned for job opportunity, effective 10/30/21; Patricia Moceri, Food Service, 6 years of service, Resigned for job opportunity effective 10/28/21; Matthew Wegienka, Plant Operations, 4 years of service, Resigned for job opportunity effective 11/29/21; Audrey Rappe, Special Services, Less than 1 year of service, Terminated effective 11/1/21 and Checks Payable. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Separate Check Approval – None

The first Administrative Item was the VBEST Tentative Agreement Recommendation presented by Abdul Madyun. Mr. Madyun said that he reached out to this unit to see if they would be interested in opening their contract to a wage review in order to attract more new hires and help retain the current employees. The VBEST group was open to this request and through discussion it was agreed to increase the paraprofessionals by a $2.00/hour beginning immediately with the previously agreed upon .50 cent raises for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 being void. The remaining

groups in the VBEST unit would receive a .50 cent per hour raise beginning immediately and then continue to receive the previously agreed upon .50 cent per hour raise in 2022-23 and 2023-24. Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Dionne Falconer that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Tentative Agreement between the Van Buren Educational Support Team and Van Buren Public Schools as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

The second Administrative Item was the Building Presentations. McBride Middle School was first and was presented by John Leroy, Principal and Laura Maher, Assistant Principal. Mr. Leroy said that they would focus on supporting students that have been identified as performing below grade level target proficiency and reduce achievement gaps in Math and Reading. These students will use Power Hour to work toward proficiency measured by local assessments, NWEA and MStep. Mr. Leroy said that they will be using READ 180 and Get More Math (GMM) to help accomplish this goal. Ms. Maher said that GMM is an adaptive program that provides cumulative practice sessions tailored to each student's needs. Amy Pearce asked how this works at the end of the day? Mr. Leroy said that the last two hours of the school day are on a separate schedule. This time of the day is for elective classes and for students that need extra instruction in specific areas. This is when these identified students will attend Power Hour sessions. Mr. Leroy and Ms. Maher looks forward to returning in the Spring to update the board on their progress. Next to present were Owen Intermediate Principal, Mr. Salhaney and Assistant Principal, Ms. Smith. Mr. Salhaney said that one of their first goals was to figure out how "back to school" was going to look this year. It was decided that the entire student body would be put into WIN (What I Need) groups for 40 minutes everyday. This would assist students to focus on what they specifically need help on. Another daily initiative that all classrooms are participating in is called Morning Meetings. For 20 minutes everyday, teachers discuss a topic with the class. At the beginning of the year, the staff were given a book with ideas for them to use every morning. These meetings set the tone for the day. Mr. Salhaney said that through their School Improvement Plan, there are multiple opportunities for teachers to receive extra coaching assistance. Jessica Moore, Owen Instructional Coach, has coaching cycles set up with staff, Cereal City has set up coaching to increase science curriculum understanding and Instructional Rounds which is the process for colleagues to see teaching and learning in other classrooms. Mr. Salhaney is hoping this will break the isolation of instruction in classrooms. Amy Pearce said that she loved the Morning Meetings idea. The last school to present this evening was Edgemont Elementary and Principal Fred Abel. Mr. Abel began by saying that they had to look at things differently this year since they had more students. Edgemont had to add 4 new classrooms. The staff have noticed that students' motor skills are not where they have been in the past primarily due to being at home learning the last couple of years. Edgemont's occupational therapist created professional development for the entire teaching staff so that they could practice how to teach motor skills in all grade levels. Mr. Abel said that the Nellie Edge program uses body movements to teach American Sign Language (ASL) which can also help with early motor skill deficiencies. The Nellie Edge program along with RLAC Phonics, helps students learn the alphabet and master the letter sounds which is another skill that students are behind in. Mr. Abel finished by saying that he added cute pictures of students working because who doesn't love kid pictures. Information Only.

The last Administrative Item was the Authorizing Resolution for the 2022 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II presented by Sara Cortese, Director of Finance. Ms. Cortese reminded us that voters approved a 3 series bond in 2019 and we are now getting ready to sell the bonds for Series 2. We have set a target date to sell of 1/13/22. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Authorizing Resolution for the 2022 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Questions & Comments from the Audience for non-Agenda items - A. Mears said that there is a Jingle Bell Run Fundraiser hosted by VBPSEF and the deadline to get the discount is November 12, 2021.

Cabinet Member Reports:

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent – Tonight completes our Building Presentations for the Fall. We had a great fall sports season and for some it is not quite over yet. I wanted to acknowledge our Cross Country team. They are growing and improving and I am very excited for their future. Mr. Mills is their coach and has done a great job. 6th grade camp is this week. I will be going on Thursday to spend the day. It looks like it will be great weather this week. Our Air Rifle team competed in Ohio this past weekend. It is a multiple day event. I do not have all of the results yet, but at Friday's competition out of 120 cadets, Ashley Wang got 2nd and Nila Hooper got 3rd place. Congratulations girls.

Jeff Moore, Director of Curriculum - Our Website switched over last Friday. It was mainly a cosmetic change. We are working on training staff this week. There are also a few kinks that we are working on fixing but nothing major. So far everyone feels it is more user friendly. It has been very busy for the teachers these past couple of weeks. I want to thank all of them for their hard work.

Abdul Madyun, Director of Human Resources -

Sara Cortese, Director of Finance - I have been working on the Annual Report called Continuing Disclosure. The Qualifying Statement also has to be filed and we just got our approval back for that one.

Karen Johnston, Director of Student Services - Last week the elementary special education teams spent time at the Admin Bldg. for PD. There were lots of good discussions. One of the topics discussed was, "How can we best serve our students?" Everyone shared ideas.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Susan Featheringill - I went to the Symphony Band Concert. It was great.

Darlene Loyer-Gerick - For Veterans Day, the NJROTC marched in downtown Detroit this past Sunday. There will be a Craft Show Fundraiser for the Class of 2022 on November 20 from

9am-2pm at the Belleville Yacht Club. The Rumors Play will be 11/19 and 11/20/21. I will be at the football game on Saturday.

Amy Pearce - I was so impressed with the thoughtful and creative ways to support kids emotionally and academically. There is an Aviation Stem Curriculum (AOPA) for schools. It is a 4 year Aviation Study aligned with the State Curriculum. There is one for drones and one for pilots. I can say there will be a need for pilots in the near future.

Dionne Falconer - The Trunk or Treat at Tyler last week was great. Mac and Cheese donations will be accepted at Tyler Elementary School from 11/8 - 11/23/21. The donations will go towards Friday Fillups. My son enjoys Power Hour at McBride that was spoke about earlier this evening by Mr. Leroy. It has really helped him.

Kelly Owen - I went to the Symphony Band Concert. There are lots of fun things coming up.

Motion by Simone Pinter, support by Kelly Owen to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried.

Regular session adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary