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

June 26, 2023

Vice President Susan Featheringill called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Priya Nayak, Director of Finance, held the required end of the year Public Budget Hearing. She covered the 22-23 Final Budget as well as the 23-24 Original Budget. Ms. Nayak began by explaining the purpose of the Budget Hearing and why it is important for the Board of Education as well as the public to understand and have a chance to ask questions. Ms. Nayak went through each of the Funds for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year including the revenues and expenditures for each. These Funds include General Fund, Special Education Fund, Food Service Fund, Debt Fund, Sinking Fund, Capital Fund, and Fiduciary Activity Fund. Mr. Kudlak said that we have a buffer of about 50 students in our fund balance just in case we are off when our final budget totals come in. Mr. Kudlak also said that we will be renewing our Non-Homestead Property Millage at the first election in 2024. Next, Ms. Nayak reviewed the 23-24 Budget Assumptions for all of the different Fund groups. She explained that this is just the initial budget to start the 23-24 school year. The first amendment will be sometime in the Fall after Student Count Day. Ms. Nayak and Mr. Kudlak answered questions from the audience. T. Mears asked if we have a plan for the 24-25 school year when the ESSR Funds are finished? Mr. Kudlak said that we have used those funds for extra items, not as monies used to run the district. T. Mears asked if the goal was still to get to net zero for the food service budget? Mr. Kudlak replied yes it was. T. Mears asked if we generate more money for the district when our athletic teams do well and extend their play into the postseason? Mr. Kudlak replied that for the most part it evens out. He said that with great seasons also comes more cost.

Board members present: Calvin Hawkins, Darlene Loyer Gerick, Kelly Owen, Susan Featheringill and Dionne Falconer. Amy Pearce and Simone Pinter were absent. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Peter Kudlak, Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services, Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction, James Williams, Director of Plant Operations, and Priya Nayak, Director of Finance. John Leroy, Director of Human Resources was absent.

Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Calvin Hawkins that the Board approves the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments - Agenda Items - None

Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Kelly Owen to approve the consent agenda as presented: Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 12, 2023; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Anna Albulov, Rawsonville, 4 years of service, Resigned effective 8/14/23; Richard Shafer, Edgemont, 11 years of service, Resigned effective 6/30/23; Olivia Campbell, McBride Speech Pathologist, Hired effective 8/23/23; Rachel Lott, ECC Speech Pathologist, Hired effective 8/23/23; Rebecca Parise, Savage Social Worker, Hired effective 8/23/23; Brooke Westover, Savage Speech Pathologist, Hired effective 8/23/23; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: Linda Martin, Food Service, 17 years of service, Retiring effective 6/19/23; Tina Carter,

BHS Secretary, 2 years of service, Resigned effective 6/26/23; Amanda Seng, Transportation - Driver, 1 year of service, Resigned effective 6/23/23; Antionette Streater, Building & Grounds - Custodian, Hired effective 6/12/23; Anita Fahey, Building & Grounds - Custodian, Hired effective 6/19/23; Zachary Schneider, Mechanic, Hired effective 6/20/23; Gregory Martinez, Building & Grounds - Maintenance, Hired effective 7/3/23; Dawn Spicer, BHS Secretary, Hired effective 8/1/23; Kelli Suvada, McBride Secretary, Hired effective 8/1/23; Checks Payable and 8th grade Washington D.C. Trip in May 2024. Motion carried 5-0.

Separate Check Approval: Motion by Darlene Loyer Gerick, support by Dionne Falconer to approve Check# 157332 to Matt Davenport in the amount of $210.78 for In-district Mileage. Motion carried 5-0.

Administrative Items:

The first Administrative Item was the Building Presentation by Owen Intermediate School presented by Principal Jason Salhaney and Assistant Principal Jean Smith. Mr. Salhaney began by saying that the theme for this past school year was "Inspiring Academic Excellence". He said that they chose to focus on metacognition and formative assessments as well as adding Assistive Technology in the middle of the school year. Mr. Salhaney reviewed the outcomes of each of these areas and then discussed the data collected from the iReady assessments for both Reading and Math. Mr. Salhaney ended by highlighting the good things happening to promote High Quality Instruction at Owen; small group instruction occurring in all classrooms, more than 160 kids were able to benefit form academic intervention programs, serviced 25 students in the Book Nook tutoring program and it was the 2nd year of implementing Instructional Rounds. The final note was on how Owen has involved the Parent Community by having a fully functioning PTO, Quarterly Coffee Talks, Monthly Family Events, an increased Social Media presence and Luau Know How. Information Only.

The second Administrative Item was the Tentative Agreement with Van Buren Food Service Assoc. (VBFSA) and VBPS Approval presented by Superintendent Kudlak. Mr. Kudlak said that they agreed on a two year contract (2023-2025). A few highlights of the agreement were $.50 raise per year (total $1.00 over 2 years), Attendance Bonus up to $1,000.00 per year (sunset at end of contract) and add level to longevity for 25 years of service at $600.00 (all longevity sunset at end of contract). Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Tentative Agreement between the Van buren Food Service Association (VBFSA) and Van Buren Public Schools signed on June 13, 2023 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

The third Administrative Item was the Tentative Agreement with Van Buren Assoc. of Educational Secretaries (VBAES) and VBPS approval presented by Superintendent Kudlak. Mr. Kudlak said that we have agreed on a three year contract from 2023-2026. Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Calvin Hawkins that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Tentative Agreement between the Van Buren Association of Educational Secretaries (VBAES) and Van Buren Public Schools signed on June 13, 2023 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

The fourth Administrative Item was the Security Camera Upgrades Approval presented by James Williams, Director of Plant Operations. Mr. Williams and IT Administrator, Sean Garland,

reviewed this information at the last Board Meeting. Mr. Williams said that it has been the district's goal to increase security camera coverage across the district. Motion by Darlene Loyer Gerick, support by Dionne Falconer that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the security camera upgrades and replacement at Belleville High School and Transportation bus yard project in the amount of $223,476.20, which includes a contract with Security101 for $171,225.70, Infinity Technology Group for $31,934.50, and a 10 percent contingency for $20,316.00 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Administrative Item was the 22-23 Final Budget Amendment Approval presented by Priya Nayak, Director of Finance. Ms. Nayak said that this was the information that was presented at the Budget Hearing earlier this evening. She also said that pursuant to Act 2, Public Acts of 1968, MCL 141.421 et seq., as amended, it is necessary for the Board of the School District to adopt a General Fund Budget supported by the School District's millage levy, and Debt Fund, Sinking Fund and School Service Fund Budgets supported by the School District's millage levy, and a Construction Fund Budget and to amend a budget when resources so dictate. Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Dionne Falconer that the Van Buren Public Schools approve the 2022-2023 Final Budget Resolution as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

The sixth Administrative Item was the 23-24 Original Budget Resolution Approval presented by Priya Nayak, Director of Finance. Ms. Nayak said that this was the information that was presented at the Budget Hearing earlier this evening. She also said that pursuant to Act 2, Public Acts of 1968, MCL 141.421 et seq., as amended, it is necessary for the Board of the School District to adopt a General Fund Budget supported by the School District's millage levy, and Debt Fund, Sinking Fund and School Service Fund Budgets supported by the School District's millage levy, and a Construction Fund Budget and to amend a budget when resources so dictate. Motion by Calvin Hawkins, support by Dionne Falconer that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Original Budget Resolution as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Administrative Item was the 23-24 L-4029 Resolution Approval presented by Priya Nayak, Director of Finance. Ms. Nayak said that this approval is needed every year for the Tax Rate Request, Form L-4029. Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Kelly Owen that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the 23-24 L-4029 Resolution as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

The last Administrative Item was the Stepping Stones Group Agreement Approval presented by Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services. Mr. Frazier explained that this is a Special Education Service Provider Company. They provide staffing for our district in order to service students with IEP's. They help us with staffing for positions that are hard to fill. This is for a one year contract. Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Special Education Contractual Agreement with Stepping Stones Group for the 2023-2024 School Year as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Questions & Comments from the Audience for non-Agenda items - R. Bean, Parent, School email hacked.

Cabinet Member Reports:

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent – Congratulations to Joe Brodie who was nominated for the Leadership Playbook 22-23 Administrator of the Year. Cassidy Taylor works at the ECC Building and volunteered to do the evaluation for our GSRP Program this year. Becky Ross and I went to the Burger Transition Center to see her presentation on Large Group Time. Thank you to the Education Foundation for all their hard work at the Lakefest Festival. Money was raised for the District during the festival. Atchison Ford donated a Safety Utility Vehicle (ATV) to our district to use on the high school campus. Last weekend we had track players attend the Nationals Competition. They did very well.

Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services - We are inputting the final supporting student data in the system as the end of the year collection deadline approaches. There are 13 different areas that the state measures special education. We are looking to pilot an ASD Resource Program in our district which will need one teacher and two parapros. This program will be fully funded by Wayne Resa. My department is also wrapping up Homeless Liaison data costs as well as hiring staff to fill vacant spots. Kelly Owen asked how many homeless students we have in our district? Mr. Frazier said that he did not have an exact number but would guess that we are over 20 students.

Jeff Moore, Director of Curriculum - Last Friday, the Administrators took part in a new teacher evaluation tool training, Thoughtful Classroom. The teachers will have training on this tool during one of the August PD sessions. We will be piloting a black boys forum this summer through Wayne Resa. 10 students from Rawsonville and Owen Intermediate School will participate in a summer school program for four weeks and then follow up with enrichment sessions throughout the school year. This will be held at the high school.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations - Bond projects are progressing well even though we have a shorter summer schedule. Boots are the barricade system used in schools. More are being added to the larger spaces at Owen and ECC.

Priya Nayak, Director of Finance - The District Auditors will be on site tomorrow.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Calvin Hawkins - I attended the Moving On Up Ceremony at Tyler Elementary School. They did a great job. There was a lot of family participation.

Darlene Loyer Gerick - I enjoyed Lakefest last weekend.

Dionne Falconer - Some of our football players attended the 7 on 7 championships at UofM last week with Coach Norm and won.

Kelly Owen - I am happy for summer vacation.

Susan Featheringill - I enjoyed the presentations tonight. Budget is the best day of the year. Remember the July 17 Board Meeting will be at the Administration Building.

Motion by Darlene Loyer Gerick, support by Dionne Falconer to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Regular session adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary