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

September 8, 2025

President Amy Pearce called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00pm at the Belleville High School Commons at 501 W. Columbia Ave, Belleville, MI 48111.

Board members present: Darlene Loyer Gerick, Wade Fields, Calvin Hawkins, David Shall, Amy Pearce and Vic DeLibera. Dionne Falconer was absent. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Peter Kudlak, Priya Nayak, Director of Finance, Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services, John Leroy, Director of Human Resources and Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction. James Williams, Director of Plant Operations was absent.

Motion by Vic DeLibera support by Calvin Hawkins that the Board approves the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments (Agenda Items) - None

Motion by David Shall, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick to approve the consent agenda as presented: Minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 25, 2025; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Elizabeth Burke, McBride Teacher, Hired effective 9/2/25; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: Cheryl Shankle, McBride Food Service, 3 years of service, Resigned effective 8/22/25; Alissa Frederick, McBride paraprofessional, 4 years of service, Resigned effective 8/22/25; Marcia Borgdorff, Rawsonville paraprofessional, 3 years of service, Terminated effective 9/2/25; Matthew Bateman, Edgemont paraprofessional, 1 year of service, Terminated effective 9/2/25; Clavin King-Thomas, Transportation-Driver, Hired effective 9/3/25; and Checks Payable. Motion carried 6-0.

Separate Check Approval: None

Administrative Items:

The first Administrative Item was TeachTown Curriculum Approval presented by Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services. Mr. Frazier said that currently VBPS does not have a curriculum that satisfies our requirement of FAPE within the LRE. Mr. Frazier also said that TeachTown also satisfies IDEA's requirements for the provision of FAPE from pre-k (Launch for Pre-K) to secondary (Encore) students with IEPs who have moderate to severe disabilities. This would be for our non Act 18 student programs and would come out of our Special Education budget. Ms. Pearce asked if staff would be trained on this? Mr. Frazier said yes. He also said that some staff have already received training on this curriculum. Mr. Shall asked how many students would this support? Mr. Frazier replied about 55 students. Mr. DeLibera asked if we thought about a pilot program? Mr. Frazier said that this curriculum already aligns with what we already use in some of our other programs. Motion by Calvin Hawkins, support by Vic DeLibera that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the TeachTown curriculum for a grand total of $64,416 as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

The second Administrative Item was the MASB Delegate Information presented by Board President Amy Pearce and Superintendent Pete Kudlak. Ms. Pearce explained what the Michigan Association of School Boards is and what role they play in supporting school boards at the local district level. At the Annual Leadership Meeting in October, districts can have members from their school board vote on issues pertaining to education in the State of Michigan. Our district can have up to 3 official voting delegates and 3 alternates that will need to be certified and submitted by Thursday, October 2, 2025. This is done online after they are approved at the next board meeting. Information only.

Public Comments (Non-Agenda items) - Reg Ion, Grandparent - Pepsi Contract and Nicole Nelson, Parent - Follow up to Mr. Leroy's email.

Cabinet Member Reports:

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent – Opening Day has so much that goes into it. It is a great thing to see every year. We have a bond going on the November election ballot. We are working on getting information out to the community. It is an estimated net-zero-tax-rate-increase-bond proposal. Thank you to Jay Rupnow for filling in and running our technology tonight for the board meeting. We still do not have a State Budget yet. We are supposed to have it by July 1st.

Priya Nayak, Director of Finance - I have given everything to the auditors and I have recently applied for 2 food service grants.

Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services - It is great to be back in the schools. I am getting ready for some more para training coming up.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations -

John Leroy, Director of Human Resources - I have been supporting new staff in their new roles and getting into buildings as much as I can.

Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction - I have been dealing with enrollments and making sure that schools have everything they need to start the school year off right.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Darlene Loyer Gerick - We have over 350 alumni coming to the BHS Alumni Football Tailgate on Friday.

Amy Pearce - The Band Review is next week. There will be 7 local high schools visiting plus our band. This is such a great opportunity for the bands and for our community to get to see all of these half time shows. We still need volunteers for about 2 hour commitment time slots.

Vic DeLibera - I would love for the Robotics Team to do a presentation on what they have to build this year, what it would cost, what they will need to do, etc.

Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Vic DeLibera to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Regular session adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary