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

October 25, 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 and Dionne Falconer. Kelly Owen and Calvin Hawkins were absent. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Peter Kudlak, Abdul Madyun, Director of Human Resources, James Williams, Director of Plant Operations, Karen Johnston, Director of Student Services and Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction. Sara Cortese, Director of Finance was absent. Lilly Peters was the student representative from BHS.

Motion by Susan Featheringill, support by Simone Pinter that the Board approves the agenda as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Questions and Comments from the Audience - Agenda Items - None

Motion by Simone Pinter, support by Dionne Falconer to approve the consent agenda as presented; Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2021; Minutes from the Closed Session of October 11, 2021; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Cristina Bugescu, Tyler Elementary Teacher, Hired effective 10/18/21; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: Zannon Carter, Plant Operations, Less than 1 year of service, Terminated effective 10/14/21and Checks Payable. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Separate Check Approval – None

The first Administrative Item was the Building Presentations. Becky Ross, Cassidy Taylor, and Norma Richards presented for Haggerty School, soon to be the Early Childhood Center of Van Buren Public Schools. The programs available currently are GSRP for 4 year olds, ASD and ECP for students with IEP's and the Happy Days Latchkey Childcare. Programs that will be added are tuition based for students Birth - 30 months and 3 and 4 year olds. Ms. Ross said that they are working on licensing and scheduling inspections. They have packing and moving plans in place. James Williams visits once per week to go over punch lists and other important issues. The big move of items in the building will take place over Winter Break. On December 14 and 15 staff and students will be able to visit the new building. Some of the new items for the ECC Building are amplifiers for the classrooms, dimming lights, wireless technology, music piped throughout the building and built in cubbies in the classrooms. Everything will be lower and accessible for students. In the Gross Motor Room/Gym there are large windows to let in natural light and lots of colors were used for the floors and walls. The playground will be preschool age appropriate and have a big bicycle track with stop and go signs. Ms. Richards said that there are only 72 days left after today. The ECC office will have child and adult seating, a 3 level office

desk and a sick room. Outside the office is a care center for parents and a drop box for visitor's convenience. The results from the family survey that was sent out was 86% heard we are moving, 25% have not seen the new building and 78% would like to see the building. A virtual and in-person tour will be set up for parents in December. Ms. Taylor explained that the staff is working hard on helping families feel comfortable about the move and settling their anxieties. There have been lots of information and announcements sent out over the past 2 months and will continue. We have been sharing books with the students - We're Moving" and "Goodbye School". Ms. Ross ended the presentation by saying that she can't wait to come back in the Spring to show everyone how things are going and what it looks like to be in the new building. Ms. Pearce said that you seem completely prepared. Ms. Pinter asked if there would be spots for high school students to work in the new building? Ms. Ross said that they are hoping to have co-op students join them once their programs are up and running. The second presentation was from Rawsonville Elementary School and Principal Tracy Bryant along with teacher Lisa Stremer. Ms. Stremer began by saying that math is the focus this year. The goal is to improve the math M-Step scores. The strategies that will be used are Complex Instruction, MTSS and Enhancing Math with Instructional Technology. The MTSS Team will collaborate with the teachers and suggest strategies to support the needs of each student and provide a timeline to re-visit and monitor progress. Amy Pearce liked the collaboration they use among their staff as well as other school staff too. Darlene Loyer Gerick said that you are working smarter, not harder. Simone Pinter liked how they are making it fun for the staff and students. Information Only.

The second Administrative Item was the Design Presentation for Series 2 Construction presented by James Williams, Director of Plant Operations and Rob Kakoczki, Plante Moran Cresa. Series 2 focuses on projects for Owen, Tyler and Savage Schools. Projects for Owen will include renovating classrooms, corridor lockers will be replaced, mechanical system upgrades, PA and fire alarm system upgrades, and parking lot expansion to include a dedicated bus loop. At Savage and Tyler, new playground equipment and mechanical system upgrades will be installed. Owens' projects will take place over the Summer of 2022 but will begin in some areas in April 2022. Mr. Kakoczki showed a diagram of the Project Plan Overview for Owen of the inside and outside projects. There was also a diagram of what the new Owen STEM Space will look like as well as pictures. Savage and Tyler's work will take place over the summer and both schools will have more projects in Series 3 coming in the future. Mr. Kakoczki also reviewed the budget; amounts and funds that will be used to cover the costs. Information Only.

The last Administrative Item was the Dump Truck Chassis Purchase Approval presented by James Williams, Director of Plant Operations. Mr. Williams presented the information for this purchase at the last Board Meeting and asked if there were any questions. There were not any questions. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Simone Pinter that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of the 2022 Ford F600 Regular Cab 4x4 XLT Chassis 169"WB,84" CA in the amount of $57,586.00 plus the addition of equipment not to exceed a total amount of $130,000.00 as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Questions & Comments from the Audience for non-Agenda items - None

Lilly Peters - BHS Student Representative - I am with the Class of 2023 Student Council. This was the first year that we had 2 Homecoming dances; one for 9th and 10th graders and one for 11th and 12th graders. There was a lot of great feedback. We will be having a canned food drive and a craft show at the BYC in the near future. This Friday will be our first round of football playoff games.

Cabinet Member Reports:

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent – We have decided to go with virtual conferences again this year using the program "Meet the Teacher". We are working on a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new ECC Building.

Jeff Moore, Director of Curriculum - PDD for teachers is a half day on Friday, October 29 and a full day on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Elementary Conferences will be the week of November 1, 2021. Dennis and Marie Hussey have donated to VBPS in the past and have once again donated $8000.00 to go towards our District's science educational programs. I want to give a great big thank you to them.

Abdul Madyun, Director of Human Resources - I am still working to hire staff. We are trying to get creative with our hiring techniques. Negotiations with VBEA started last week and VBASA will start tomorrow. I looked at the wages of the VBEST group and approached them about possibly opening their contract for wages. An additional $2.00/hour for parapros now with a freeze for the next 2 years and an additional .50 cents per hour for all others in that bargaining unit. Amy Pearce asked if this is for new and current employees? Mr. Madyun said yes.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations - I am working on finishing the punch list items for the new ECC Building.

Karen Johnston, Director of Student Services - A couple of weeks ago, I toured the ECC Building and got to see the furniture, fixtures, carpet, etc. It looks great. I went to Crisis Intervention Training with Angela Mercer and Jessica Adelmann. There are now 6 trainers in the District to help train staff.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Simone Pinter - Kids are excited to be back in school.

Susan Featheringill - There is a band concert tomorrow night. Tickets for the football game on Friday can be purchased online.

Darlene Loyer-Gerick - I was excited for the football game last Friday.

Amy Pearce - On November 3, 2021 there will be a fundraiser for volleyball from 3:00pm - 8:00pm at Qdoba in Belleville. Congrats to McBride for their MiHealth Award.

Dionne Falconer - I think the Board is doing a good job as a whole and what is best for our District. If you have any candy to donate to Tyler Elementary School for their Trunk or Treat on Thursday, please drop off at the main office.

Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Susan Featheringill to enter into Closed Session at 8:21 pm pursuant to Open Meetings Act Section 8(k) to consider security planning to address existing threats or prevent potential threats to the safety of the students and staff. Motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote: S. Featheringill - Aye, D. Loyer Gerick - Aye, Amy Pearce - Aye, D. Falconer - Aye, and Simone Pinter - Aye. 0- Nays. Calvin Hawkins and Kelly Owen were absent.

Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick, to return back to Open Session at 8:30 pm. Motion carried.

Administrative Item - To consider security planning to address existing threats or prevent potential threats to the safety of the students and staff. Motion by Darlene Loyer Gerick, support by Dionne Falconer that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the District Safety and Security plan as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Motion by Susan Featheringill, support by Dionne Falconer to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried.

Regular session adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary