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

November 13, 2023

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

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

Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Calvin Hawkins that the Board approves the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments - Agenda Items - None

Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Simone Pinter to approve the consent agenda as presented: Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2023; Minutes from the Closed Session of October 23, 2023; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: April Crawford, Owen Resource Room Teacher, Hired effective 11/6/23; Alicia DelToro-Watson, McBride CI Teacher, Hired effective 11/7/23; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: April Welsing, Food Service, less than 1 year of service, Resigned effective 10/27/23; Erica Lafferty, Savage Paraprofessional, Hired effective 10/30/23; Courteney Glasper, District Security Tech Specialist, Hired effective 11/6/23; Barbara Furman, Tyler Paraprofessional, Hired effective 11/6/23; Alganett Moore, BHS Food Service, Hired effective 11/13/23; Checks Payable and BHS Student Council State Leadership Conference Field Trip. Motion carried 6-0.

Separate Check Approval: None

Administrative Items:

The first Administrative Item was the Building Presentations from Savage Elementary School, Edgemont Elementary School and Belleville High School. Information Only. The first presentation was from Principal Lisa Preuss, Sarah Lang and Angie Harding. Ms. Preuss began by saying that they are focusing on math goals and data for this fall presentation. Ms. Harding said that they are trying to get back to playing games together and in small groups to build their understanding of numbers and math equations. Ms. Lang spoke about playing with the number grid with her third graders and using the game Go Fish to learn math skills such as addition and subtraction. Ms. Pearce said that she liked that these are things that can be done at home too. The next presentation was from Edgemont Elementary School and Principal Laura Maher and Cindy Dolan. Ms. Maher began by saying that the school was able to get a book vending machine this year. In the beginning of the year, each student got a coin and were able to get a book to start the year off. Ms. Maher said that their focus this year is on Literacy Development. The goal is to move literacy where it needs to be. Last year Mr. Kudlak and I discussed how we could work on literacy even more than what is already scheduled in a day. It was decided to look

for any gaps and fill it with reading. One example is with Genius Hour. This is a one on one meeting with a student to support writing, classroom instruction and find topics that they enjoy in order to promote interest in reading. On Friday, these students meet with another staff member to celebrate their successes from Genius Hour. Ms. Maher spoke about the University of Florida Literacy Initiative (UFLI) and how it is being used in the school. This program utilizes a multi-sensory approach incorporating reading, writing and speaking, integrates technology and uses decodable books. She said that this program has really taken off and adds another resource in a teacher's toolbox. Ms. Dolan finished by saying that their future plans are to continue Instructional Rounds, working on identifying more Tier 11 and Tier 111 strategies for literacy development and more training for additional staff. The last building presentation was from Belleville High School's principal, Nicole Crockett. Ms. Crockett said that the two major focuses for this presentation were Academics and Intervention. Beginning with academics, the school is using the tagline - The 80% Challenge. This tagline can be found everywhere around the school. Ms. Crockett showed data from the four core classes using the last two school years and breaking it down into FA (first attempt) and SA (second attempt). Ms. Pearce asked what could cause a lower percentage from the FA to the SA? Ms. Crockett said that it could be because it was a different test. Mr. Kudlak said that it could be because the second test was harder. We do try to make the tests similar but that is hard to do. Amy Pearce also asked if this data included the AP Students? Ms. Crockett said no. The second area of focus is the Interventions in place at the high school. Ms. Crockett said that the high school staff will be focusing on A Culture of Thinking and Learning and Preparing Students for New Learning. The Student Resource Center (SRC) was made up of one area - Student Intervention. This year we have now added a Parent Intervention, an Attendance Success Coach and an Academic Success Coach. We are so happy for all of these additions. Information only.

The second Administrative Item was the Bond Technology Information presented by Rob Kakoczki, Plante Moran Cresa and James Williams, Director of Plant Operations. Mr. Kakoczki spoke about Bid Package #4 Structured Cabling and Bid Package #6 AV and Security Technology Systems for McBride Middle School, Savage Elementary School and Tyler Elementary School Technology. He said that the Project Team is recommending a total award of $677,975.00 for the project with a breakdown as follows: Infrastructure and IT closet work - Capricorn Diversified Systems for $438,668.00, Security Camera Systems - Security 101 for $207,022.00 and a 5% Project Contingency for $32,285.00. The last piece of this project is Bid Package #7 Classroom A/V and PA Systems for McBride Middle School, Edgemont Elementary School, Rawsonville Elementary School, Savage Elementary School and Tyler Elementary School. Mr. Kakoczki said that the Project Team is recommending a total project award of $790,270.00 with a breakdown as follows: Base Bid No.1 Classroom AV - Digital Age Technologies for $565,529.00, Base Bid No.2 PA Systems - Digital Age Technologies for $187,109.00 and 5% Project Contingency for $37,632.00. Mr. Kakoczki also explained that for Bid No. 2 for the PA System, Digital Age Technologies proposed a voluntary alternative for a fully compliant system that meets the bid specifications. Their proposed solution will provide a networked building-wide PA system with similar features and functions that meet the design intent of the bid and will integrate with the Classroom A/V system being installed as part of Base Bid No. 1. This alternate system will result in a savings of $169,543.00 to the district while providing similar features and functions as the specified base bid manufacturer. Amy Pearce asked if this is funded through the Bond? Mr. Kakoczki said that this basically wraps up the IT Bond items for the district and yes the majority of this project is funded with the Bond except the Edgemont and Rawsonville PA system ended up being too much for the Bond so it was moved under the Sinking Fund. Information only.

The last Administrative Item was the Non-Homestead Millage Resolution Approval presented by Superintendent Kudlak. Mr. Kudlak said that to continue to levy and receive 18 mills from the operating millage, we need to adopt the resolution for the renewal of the existing millage that is expiring in November 2024. Mr. Kudlak also explained that millages like this are subject to a Headlee Rollback which means that even though our voters passed the millage at a certain rate of 18 mills, we end up collecting less than this amount because property values are growing faster than inflation. The difference could have a significant impact on our budget. Though the ballot language indicates 19.3197 mills, by law we can never collect more than the 18 mills. This resolution will allow us to add the millage on the ballot for the February 2024 election. Motion by Simone Pinter, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Operating Millage Renewal Proposal as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments - Non-Agenda items - R. Bean, Parent - Negligence of school district on safety of student and A. Mears, Parent - Fundraisers.

Cabinet Member Reports:

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent - The football game will be this Saturday at 1:00pm in Novi against Davison. On December 2 the Robotics Club will compete against 25 teams at McBride Middle School. They still need volunteers. Negotiations with the VBEA unit continue. Currently in the State of Michigan, school districts are required to fulfill 1098 hours, 180 school days and 183 teacher days. There are now provisions in the law to count Professional Development hours. Our district does not include that with the number of required school days yet. We want to stay at 180 school days whereas the VBEA unit would like to make this part of the negotiations. We will continue to work through this.

John Leroy, Director of Human Resources - I have two big things going on in my department. The first item is Negotiations with the VBEA Unit (teachers group). Both sides are happy with the progress. The second item is Open Enrollment for the district regarding benefits and insurance. We are about 80% complete.

Priya Nayak, Director of Finance - I have updated our district reports with MDE and on our website. Julien and I attended a meeting at Wayne Resa this week with other Special Ed and Finance Directors.

Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction - NJROTC had their Award Ceremony today. We are working on putting in place an Early Warning System. We are trying to figure out how to more consistently identify these students. We are also looking at refreshing the website. We will soon be looking at different platforms. Mr. Kudlak asked me to fill in for the Chess Club on Friday. I lost to Parker Mears. I went to one football game this year. I haven't been able to go much this year. It is so exciting to see the band come out at the games. It really brings the community together.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations - The Move Management RFP went out today. This will be for the removal of items out of the buildings in order to begin work and then put back in again after the work is completed. We will be implementing a new platform for work orders and also working on updating the facilities use program as well. Amy Pearce asked if we are going to demolish Haggerty School? Mr. Williams said that we have no plans to demolish Haggerty School.

Mikayla Squirewell, BHS Student - Class of 2024 President - We are currently working on our annual food drive. We are also trying to help out Owen with their holiday food baskets. We will be collecting until November 15, 2023. November 18, 2023 will be the craft show at BHS from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Performances of Clue will be this Friday and Saturday. In a couple of weeks we will be doing Toys for Kids in our District.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Calvin Hawkins - I really enjoyed the BHS presentation. I liked how they are using their data to improve in struggling areas. I get asked all the time where Bryce is going for college.

Darlene Loyer Gerick - This is our hunting weekend however there is so much going on. I will be at the play on Friday, the craft show on Saturday and then the football game.

Amy Pearce - I am still recovering from the band trip to Florida along with Todd and Angie Mears, I am sure. I am very proud of our students. Musically they sounded amazing. 149 students went to Florida. Thank you to Cassidy Taylor for driving the Band equipment to Disney and back. Ms. Mears thanked Amy for all her planning, organizing of fundraisers and keeping all the details straight. She did an amazing job. The band will be having a Panera Fundraiser on November 21, 2023 from 4:00pm - 8:00pm.

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

Regular session adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary