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

July 28, 2025

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

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

Motion by Vic DeLibera, support by Calvin Hawkins that the Board approves the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments (Agenda Items) - None

Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick to approve the consent agenda as presented: Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 23, 2025; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Alyson Barr, BHS teacher, less than 1 year of service, Terminated effective 8/31/25; Rebeca Lazarean, BHS Asst. Principal - 9th grade, Hired effective 8/1/25; Irial Puente, Owen teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Jolie Ballard, Owen teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Christina Gonzalez, BHS Counselor, Hired effective 8/27/25; Kaylen Dutt, Owen teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Drake Burney, BHS 9th grade Dean of Students, Hired effective 8/27/25; Danielle Duda-Buckshaw, Owen teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Allison Weyand, Owen teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Adrienne Quinn, Savage teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Brent Coeling, BHS Resource Room teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Nina Abbott-Burton, BHS Counselor, Hired effectiv 8/27/25; Quanish Shawanibin, Rawsonville teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Ashley Bishop, Tyler teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Matthew Peterson, McBride teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Deborah Perry, BHS Resource Room teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Jennifer Wampler, Tyler teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: Joumana Kadri, Administration, 3 years of service, Resigned effective 7/23/25; Madison Waldroop; Special Services, Resigned; Tessica House, Transportation, Driver, Hired effective 7/7/25; Kierra Bell, Transportation, Driver, Hired effective 7/15/25; Joumana Kadri, Admin Bldg - Admin Asst., Hired effective 7/24/25; Wesley Ronquillo, McBride Food Service Worker, TBD; Kamari Delfine, ECC, Toddler teacher, Hired effective 8/27/25; and Checks Payable. Motion carried 7-0.

Separate Check Approval:

Administrative Items:

The first Administrative Item was the Proposed Bond Election on November 4, 2025 Approval presented by Pete Kudlak, Superintendent. Mr. Kudlak said that we had to wait for the Treasury Meeting in June to clear our paperwork. Ms. Pearce asked who writes the ballot language? Mr. Kudlak said that Thrun Law Firm writes the ballot language. Mr. Kudlak explained that with

Bonds, we can only do the work that is listed and voted on or the Bond. The Administration Building will be working hard over the next couple of months to get information about the Bond out to the community. Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Wade Fields that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the proposed bond election on November 4, 2025 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

The second Administrative Item was the Collective Bargaining Agreement between VBPS and VBEA Approval presented by John Leroy, Director of Human Resources and VBEA President, Aaron Lang. Mr. Leroy said that we began our negotiations with this group back in the end of January/beginning of February and for the first time used what is called Interest Based Bargaining. Mr. Lang said that both sides seem to like this style of bargaining and the dialogue throughout the process was great. Mr. Leroy said that this agreement aims to ensure that VBPS remains competitive in attracting and retaining high-quality educators, while maintaining fiscal responsibility and meeting the needs of its students. This is for a 3 year agreement. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement (2025-2028) between VBPS and Van Buren Education Association (VBEA) as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments (Non-Agenda items) - R. Ion, Grandparent - Bond and K. Harrison, Staff - Introduction as Union President.

Cabinet Member Reports:

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent – Our thoughts and prayers go out to one of our Class of 2025 families that lost their son this past week. Summer is moving along fast. Staff will start coming back next week. Our buildings are looking good and will be ready for September 2, 2025. On 8/14/25 we will be having Active Shooter Training drills at McBride coordinated with Dan Wright and some of our local police departments.

Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services - There is a lot of planning going on in my department. I am working on PD for the 25-26 school year as well as working with ECP this summer.

John Leroy, Director of Human Resources - I am busy hiring as you can see on the sheets.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations - My department is wrapping up our deep summer cleaning and other summer projects. We have quite a lot of little projects in the buildings going on this summer. I have been planning the bond program and now will be working on the next steps.

Priya Nayak, Director of Finance - I am working on 4 audits total, however, the MDE Audit is finishing up.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Darlene Loyer Gerick - All Alumni Tailgate party is on September 12, 2025.

Amy Pearce - We have 188 Marching Band members this year. Band camp will be Aug. 18 - Aug. 22, 2025.

Dionne Falconer - The Orange and Black Football game will be on August 16 at BHS from 10am - 2pm for the community.

Wade Fields - Robotics Fundraiser on August 2, 2025 at Lodge Lanes.

Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick for the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education to enter into Closed Session Pursuant to Open Meetings Act Section 8(1)(a) Periodic Personnel Evaluation - Superintendent at 7:32pm. Motion carried 7-0 with the following roll call vote - Vic DeLibera - Aye, Amy Pearce - Aye, Dionne Falconer - Aye, Darlene Loyer Gerick - Aye, Wade Fields - Aye, David Shall - Aye and Calvin Hawkins - Aye.

President Amy Pearce declared they would come back to open session at 9:20pm.

Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Calvin Hawkins to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Regular session adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary