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

July 29, 2019

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

Board members present: Susan Featheringill, Darlene Loyer Gerick, Calvin Hawkins, Kelly Owen, Amy Pearce, and Simone Pinter. Keith Johnston was absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Peter Kudlak, Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction, Karen Johnston, Director of Student Services, Sara Cortese, Director of Finance, Abdul Madyun, Director of Human Resources and James Williams, Director of Plant Operations.

Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick, that the Board approve the agenda as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Agenda Items – A. Vandenburgh asked questions regarding the new District Nurse job. Abdul Madyun and Karen Johnston addressed the new position and what it will entail. A. Mears asked about the new Community Resource Liaison. Mr. Madyun addressed her questions regarding the new position.

Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Amy Pearce, to approve the consent agenda as presented; Minutes from the Special Meeting of June 24, 2019; Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2019; Minutes from the Closed Session of June 24, 2019; Minutes from the Special Meeting of June 28, 2019; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff; Alicia Doty-Densemo, Haggerty Teacher, Layoff effective 6/30/19; Melissa Lloyd, Owen Intermediate Principal, 10.5 years, resigned effective 7/31/19; Stacey Lucas, Rawsonville Teacher, Hired effective 8/27/19; Dena Gyulveszi, Rawsonville Teacher, Hired effective 8/27/19; Lauren Halapi, BHS Teacher, Hired effective 8/27/19; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff; Lynn Johnson, Maintenance, 1 year, Resigned effective 7/12/19; Dionisia Munoz, District Resource Nurse, Hired effective 8/1/19; Cynthis Maschat, Bus Driver, Hired effective 9/3/19 and Check Register. Motion carried.

Separate Check Approval – Motion by Darlene Loyer Gerick, support by Kelly Owen to approve Check #147522 to Foremost Graphics Group in the amount of 275.00. Motion carried.

The first administrative item was the November Special School Election Recommendation. Mr. Kudlak spoke on this agenda item. He explained that the District was waiting for approval from the State of Michigan Department of Treasury. Approving this item will allow the District to put the Bond on the November 5 Election ballot. Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education adopt this resolution to call VBPS bond election and the ballot proposition language for the November 5, 2019 election as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

The next item was the Rawsonville Elementary School Pavement Approval. James Williams, Director of Plant Operations, said that Ypsilanti Township has offered to connect the bike path to our sidewalk at no cost to the district and would be beneficial to our walkers who currently walk in the grass or down the driveway. This project is currently on our sinking fund list. Because

some of the driveway will have to be removed and then replaced (at no cost to the district) it made sense to replace the remainder of the West drive at the same time, which has deteriorated over the past couple of years at a small cost to the district. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Simone Pinter, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Ypsilanti Township to replace the entire drive in the area where the new sidewalk is going to be installed at Rawsonville Elementary School for $40,000.00 as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

The third administrative item was the McBride and Savage Furniture Purchases. These furniture purchases are for the two additional classrooms in both schools that the district allows all schools to do each year. Because McBride and Savage opt to go through one company, the amount requires the approval by the Board. Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Simone Pinter that the Van Buren Board of Education approve the purchases of McBride Furniture from the Great Lakes Furniture Supply Company in the amount of $32,055.00 and Savage Elementary School from the Dew-El Corporation in the amount of $32,222.00 as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

The last administrative item was the Update Board Policies – 2nd Reading. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Kelly Owen that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education adopt the Board Policy Update #'s 5610.01, 6605, 8400, 8402, 8500, and 9700.01 as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Questions & Comments from the Audience for non-Agenda items – A. Mears wanted to know about the Owen Principal search. 101 applied, 89 were considered, parent/teacher forum, phone screenings were done for 28 applicants, 14 going into first round of interviews, second round of interviews to be held August 7, 2019. G. Gearns wanted to get a new insurance update. She has been very pleased with her experience and Mr. Madyun has been staying on top of all the issues from what she can see. Mr. Madyun said that it has been smoother than the last time the district switched insurance plans. The problems and issues seem to be getting fewer as time goes on.

Cabinet Member Reports:

Pete Kudlak – Superintendent – Handed out documents regarding the "Do's and Don'ts" about the bond election. This pertains to the information we hand out to inform the public. I was very surprised when I saw Amy Watkins, BHS teacher, on Anderson Cooper speaking on a political platform. She did a great job.

Abdul Madyun – Director of Human Resources – I have been busy answering insurance questions and working on the Owen Principal search.

Karen Johnston – Director of Special Services – I was on vacation for two weeks of July but have also been working on the Owen Principal search.

Jeff Moore – Director of Instruction – I have just gotten back from vacation. I am working on preparing for the start of the school year as well as the Professional Development Days at the end of August. I have also been working with Abdul to organize the New Teacher Training on August 23, 2019.

James Williams – Director of Plant Operations – Media Center projects at Owen and McBride should finish on time. The soffit projects at Tyler and Savage will be finished before school starts but it will be tight. The boiler projects will finish in mid-September.

Sara Cortese – Director of Finance – Working on finalizing the 18-19 entries. Also, preparing for the next audit in August and entering salaries for the next year.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Calvin Hawkins – Liked the process for hiring the Owen Principal. Really liked the transparency and staff and parent involvement.

Amy Pearce – Please come to the Sunset Celebration on September 21, 2019 to support the VBPSEF , a non-profit group that provides grants to the Van Buren Public Schools District. Over $200,000.00 raised in the past 7 years. A Mental health Clinic at Centerline High School, primarily support high school students and then the district.

Simone Pinter – Still feels that the community doesn't know that we send some of our high school students to the William D. Ford Career Technical Center to learn about different trades. We need to do a better job getting the word out.

Darlene Loyer Gerick – It is nice to see a lot staff posting on social media about the professional development classes they have attended over the summer and how excited they are to bring their knowledge back to the classroom. Went to a Girl Scout Comic Con in North Carolina. It was a wonderful experience, not expensive and geared towards kids. It was a great safe environment for kids to have fun. Might want to suggest this as a fundraiser for the high school. Also, won't be at the August 12, 2019 meeting.

Vice President Susan Featheringill stated that there was a need to go into closed session pursuant to Open Meetings Act 8(b) – Student Discipline Reinstatement Request. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Calvin Hawkins, that the Board adjourn into closed session at 7:55pm. Motion carried.

Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Calvin Hawkins to enter back into open session at 8:33pm. Motion carried.

Motion by Darlene Loyer Gerick, support by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education reinstate student 18-19-020 with conditions. Motion carried.

Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Calvin Hawkins to adjourn the regular meeting. Regular session adjourned at 8:35pm.

Susan Featheringill
Board of Education Vice President

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary