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

January 13, 2025

Superintendent Kudlak called the Organizational Meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Judge Lisa Martin attended the School Board Meeting to swear in the three new members, Victor DeLibera, Wade Fields and David Shall and incumbent winner, Dionne Falconer.

Mr. Kudlak started the meeting with the board officers' elections. Darlene Loyer Gerick nominated Amy Pearce for President. Ms. Pearce accepted the nomination. Motion by Victor DeLibera, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that Amy Pearce assume the role of Board President for the 2025 calendar year. Motion carried 7-0 with the following Roll Call vote: Amy Pearce - Aye, Dionne Falconer - Aye, Darlene Loyer Gerick - Aye, Calvin Hawkins - Aye, Victor DeLibera - Aye, Wade Fields - Aye and David Shall - Aye. Calvin Hawkins nominated Dionne Falconer for Vice President. Ms. Falconer accepted the nomination. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that Dionne Falconer assume the role of Vice President for the 2025 calendar year. Motion carried 7-0 with the following Roll Call vote: Amy Pearce - Aye, Dionne Falconer - Aye, Darlene Loyer Gerick - Aye, Calvin Hawkins - Aye, Victor DeLibera - Aye, Wade Fields - Aye and David Shall - Aye. Dionne Falconer nominated Darlene Loyer Gerick for Secretary. Ms. Loyer Gerick accepted. Motion by Victor DeLibera, support by Calvin Hawkins that Darlene Loyer Gerick assume the role of Secretary for the 2025 calendar year. Motion carried 7-0 with the following Roll Call vote: Amy Pearce - Aye, Dionne Falconer - Aye, Darlene Loyer Gerick - Aye, Calvin Hawkins - Aye, Victor DeLibera - Aye, Wade Fields - Aye and David Shall - Aye. Amy Pearce nominated Calvin Hawkins for Treasurer. Mr. Hawkins accepted the nomination. Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Victor DeLibera that Calvin Hawkins assume the role of Treasurer for the 2025 calendar year. Motion carried 7-0 with the following Roll Call vote: Amy Pearce - Aye, Dionne Falconer - Aye, Darlene Loyer Gerick - Aye, Calvin Hawkins - Aye, Victor DeLibera - Aye, Wade Fields - Aye and David Shall - Aye.

The next item was to approve the resolution to Establish Regular Meeting Dates, Time and Place. Mr. Kudlak said that the proposed dates, time and place were attached. He said that March only had one meeting because the last week was Spring Break this year. He also said that the May 27th date was a Tuesday because Monday was Memorial Day. Lastly, Mr. Kudlak said that there is only one meeting in December due to Winter Break at the end of the month. Everyone agreed to the notations. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Calvin Hawkins to approve the Regular Meeting Dates, Time and Place as presented. Motion carried 7 - 0. The meetings dates, time and place are as follows:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ADDRESS
January 13, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville

January 27, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
February 10, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
February 24, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
March 10, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
April 14, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
April 28, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
May 12, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
May 27, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
June 9, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
June 23, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
July 14, 2025	7:00 p.m.	Administration Bldg.	555 W. Columbia, Belleville
July 28, 2025	7:00 p.m.	Administration Bldg.	555 W. Columbia, Belleville
August 11, 2025	7:00 p.m.	Administration Bldg.	555 W. Columbia, Belleville
August 25, 2025	7:00 p.m.	Administration Bldg.	555 W. Columbia, Belleville
September 8, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
September 22, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
October 13, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
October 27, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
November 10, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
November 24, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville
December 15, 2025	7:00 p.m.	BHS Commons	501 W. Columbia, Belleville

Next was the Organizational Meeting Item #4 - Establish Depository for School Funds for 2025 presented by Priya Nayak, Director of Finance. Motion by Darlene Loyer Gerick, support by Dionne Falconer that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Depository Resolution for 2025 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Organizational Meeting Item #5 - Establish Investment Authority for School Funds for 2025 presented by Priya Nayak, Director of Finance. Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Resolution for Investment Authority for 2025 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Organizational Meeting Item #6 - Designate District Employee Authorized to Post Board Meeting Notices Under the Open Meetings Act presented by Superintendent Kudlak. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Victor DeLibera that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education designates the Superintendent's Office authorization to post board meeting notices under the open meetings act as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

The last item for the Organizational Meeting was the Committee Memberships. Ms. Pearce said that we would like to have 2 or 3 board members on each of the following Committees: Facilities, Finance, Health Advisory, Policy, and School Improvement. There was discussion and then it was decided that the following members would participate on each of the committees:

Facilities – Calvin Hawkins, Darlene Loyer Gerick, Wade Fields
Finance – Amy Pearce, Dionne Falconer, David Shall
Health – Calvin Hawkins, Dionne Falconer, David Shall
Policy – Amy Pearce, Victor DeLibera, Wade Fields
School Improvement – Darlene Loyer Gerick, Amy Pearce, Victor DeLibera

The Regular Meeting was taken over by President Amy Pearce at 7:18pm.

Mr. Kudlak said that January is School Board Member Recognition Month. Mr. Kudlak said that the district is very lucky to have a board like ours. They are very much appreciated.

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

Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Victor DeLibera that the Board approves the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments (Agenda Items) - None

Motion by Darlene Loyer Gerick, support by Amy Pearce to approve the consent agenda as presented with the removal of check #160379 to Darlene Loyer Gerick in the amount of $112.02 for mileage: Minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2024; Minutes from the Closed Session of December 9, 2024; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Alyson Barr, BHS SS teacher, Hired effective 12/16/24; Joelle Summers, Rawsonville Social Worker, Hired effective 1/13/25; Kayla Koepf, Tyler 3rd grade teacher, Hired effective 1/21/25; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: Matthew Collier, Transportation, less than 1 year of service, Terminated effective 12/13/24; Doris Atchinson, Transportation, 2 years of service, Terminated effective 12/16/24; Stephanie Battle, Rawsonville staff, 6 years of service, Resigned effective 1/10/25; Jasmine Hanson, ECC Paraprofessional, Hired effective 12/11/24; Crystal Murphy, Rawsonville Paraprofessional, Hired effective 1/6/25; Emily Witt, Transportation Sub Bus Aide, Hired effective 1/6/25; and Checks Payable. Motion carried 7-0.

Separate Check Approval: None

Administrative Items:

The first Administrative Item was the IBB (Interest Based Bargaining) Information presented by John Leroy, Director of Human Resources. Mr. Leroy said that this is a different type of bargaining. It is a collaborative problem solving bargaining. On February 19 and 20, the district will hold training for the Administrators and teachers that represent the bargaining units only. Mr. Kudlak said that this is about brainstorming solutions to problems and coming to an agreement. Ms. Pearce liked that there is training for the staff before they start to use it. Information Only.

The second Administrative Item was the Staff Chromebook Purchase Approval presented by Sean Garland, IT Administrator. Mr. Garland said that we are in need of additional Chromebooks for deployment to new district instructional and support staff and to cover break/fix needs. Mr. Garland also explained that pricing will be obtained from a prebid consortium contract. Motion by Victor DeLibera, support by Calvin Hawkins that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of 50 staff Chromebooks from Clutch Solutions for the total amount of $24,249.50 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

The next Administrative Item was the Additional Elementary Chromebook Carts Purchase presented by Sean Garland, IT Administrator. Mr. Garland said that the district is looking to add 4 chromebook carts with 33 chromebooks in each to the 4 elementary schools in our district. He explained that this is needed to bolster device counts and replace the building Ipads as they are phased out of use. After this purchase there will be a total of 9 carts in every elementary school. Mr. Moore added that with these additions, the third and fourth graders are 1:1 in their buildings with devices. Mr. DeLibera asked where the funding was coming from? Mr. Garland said that he forgot to put it on the sheet but that it would come from the Sinking Fund budget. Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Victor DeLibera that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of 4 carts and 132 Chromebooks from Sehi Computing for the total amount of $41,699.28 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

The next Administrative Item was the School Board Operating Procedures Discussion presented by President Amy Pearce. Mr. Kudlak explained that we review this document every 2 years. Ms. Pearce asked the board to review and let us know if there are any changes that need to be made. We will finalize the booklet at the next board meeting. Information Only

The last Administrative Item was the Clean Bus Energy Grant Information presented by Priya Nayak. Ms. Nayak said that this grant needs to be acknowledged by the board members that we are looking into this option and gathering information pertaining to the Clean Bus Energy grant and rebates. Amy Pearce asked what have we received so far? Ms. Nayak said that we have 2 buses now and this acknowledgement will allow us to continue looking into and gathering information pertaining to this grant. The Board of Education acknowledged the District's participation in this grant. Information and Acknowledgement Only.

Public Comments (Non-Agenda items) - None

Cabinet Member Reports:

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent – Red Rover Time Tracking System has been a big deal to switch over and the directors have done a great job working on that transformation. They really cleaned up alot pertaining to payroll items. We got through the insurance open enrollment thanks to John, Priya and their departments. On February 1, the VBPSEF will host a Wild West Winter Celebration Fundraiser. There are also raffle tickets on sale at all of the buildings for a chance to win a trip or cash out option. Vic DeLibera's wife is the President of VBPSEF, Margo DeLibera.

John Leroy, Director of Human Resources - My department is working closely with the Finance Department as things are moving quickly with insurance set up, attendance bonuses and longevity payments being processed as well as ironing out the changes to our clock in/clock out system. The clinic use at McBride in the month of December was a .8 ROI (return on investment) which is good. We had 117 virtual visits, 83 in person visits and 66 new patient visits. I have begun negotiating with the Administrators group and will start with the teachers soon.

Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction - I have been wrapping up more grants with Priya. The semester will be ending soon and we have a District PD scheduled for Friday, January 31, 2025. Our multilingual learners will be taking the WIDA assessment on January 27, 2025. We have just over 100 students enrolled in our district. The iReady benchmark assessment for K-8 students in math and reading will open again soon. This assessment is given to students three times per year.

Priya Nayak, Director of Finance - It is the W2 season. The Business Office is working hard and W2's should be delivered by January 23, 2025. The food service audit carried out by MDE will take place in February this year. The Directors decided to consolidate the District's time tracking system for everyone and chose Red Rover as the platform. January 6, 2025, was the first day to go live. We are still working through some issues but we will get them figured out. I am also working on the Budget Amendment and I will bring it to a board meeting in February for approval.

Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services - I am attending budget workshops at Wayne Resa. We review processes for our budgets and then they are sent to Resa to approve. My department has been bringing in new staff and we are very excited.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Darlene Loyer Gerick - The Tiger Village is a non-profit program at BHS that was started by BHS alumnus Greg Cooper, Class of 1980. All donations received are used to improve student academic performance. They are having a banquet on February 19 at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate their achievements.

Amy Pearce - I met with the VBPSEF board last night. They are still looking for sponsors, donations and ticket sales for the event on February 1, 2025. It is always a very fun event and this year it is a western theme. I was able to attend the MASB legal webinar. We are looking to schedule a board workshop in the near future. More information to come. We lost a former

teacher over the past weekend, George Devore. It is very sad. He has a 12th grade and an 8th grade daughter that attend our district. We will be thinking of his family.

Dionne Falconer - Welcome new board members.

Calvin Hawkins - I visited the Bowling team this week. I really liked their uniforms. The competition is amazing too. The kids are highly competitive and it was really great to see.

Wade Fields - The Robotic Season has kicked off.

David Shall - I am looking forward to working with everyone.

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)(b) Student Discipline at 8:01pm. Motion carried 7-0 with the following roll call vote - David Shall - Aye, Calvin Hawkins - Aye, Victor DeLibera - Aye, Amy Pearce - Aye, Dionne Falconer - Aye, Darlene Loyer Gerick - Aye and Wade Fields - Aye.

President Amy Pearce declared they would come back to open session at 8:26 pm.

Motion by Darlene Loyer Gerick, support by Dionne Falconer that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education reinstate Student 23-24-005 with conditions. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Regular session adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary