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

September 23, 2024

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

Board members present: Darlene Loyer Gerick, Calvin Hawkins, Susan Featheringill, Amy Pearce, Kelly Owen and Simone Pinter. Dionne Falconer was absent. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Peter Kudlak, John Leroy, Director of Human Resources, Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services, Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction, and Priya Nayak, Director of Finance. James Williams, Director of Plant Operations 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 Darlene Loyer Gerick to approve the consent agenda as presented: Minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2024; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Kimberly Bargardi, BHS Social Worker, 30 years service, Retiring effective 12/31/24; Lamanzer Williams, Owen Assistant Principal, less than 1 year of service, Resigned effective 9/11/24; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: Lorrie Grzych, Transportation, 24 years of service, Retiring effective 10/1/24; Diane Kiessel, BHS Secretary, 41 years of service, Retiring effective 10/31/24; Fidelia Johnson, Transportation, less than 1 year of service, Resigned effective 9/9/24; Melissa Meimaridis, Food Service, 4 years of service, Terminated effective 9/17/24; Aislinn Basil, Rawsonville Paraprofessional, Hired effective 9/12/24; and Checks Payable. Motion carried 6-0. Mr. Kudlak acknowledged the 3 retirements and thanked them for their many years of service to the District - Kim Bargardi, 30 years, Lorrie Grzych, 24 years and Diane Kiessel, 41 years of service. These ladies have truly made the District a better place and have affected so many students and staff members' lives. Thank you again for all you have done.

Separate Check Approval: None

Administrative Items:

The first Administrative Item was the Radioactive Waste Resolution Approval presented by Superintendent Pete Kudlak. The City of Belleville's Mayor, Ken Voigt, asked the District if we would agree to support this resolution regarding the radioactive waste scheduled to come to our area. I have been on several calls with various leaders in the area, including Reggie Miller in Lansing. Currently there is a temporary injunction in place. Mr. Kudlak read the last line of the Resolution, "We stand firm with our local government in stopping this particular waste from entering our community." Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Kelly Owen that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approves the Radioactive Waste Resolution as presented. Motion carried 6-0

The second Administrative Item was the Policy Updates Approval presented by President Amy Pearce. Ms. Pearce read all of the updates at the last Board Meeting. Mr. Mears asked for more clarification on the food service policy update. Ms. Pearce and Mr. Kudlak both answered his questions. Motion by Simone Pinter, support by Amy Pearce that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the following updated board policy #'s: 2201, 2203, 2302, 2303, 2401, 2405, 2501, 2504, 3102, 3104, 3105, 3106, 3106F, 3107, 3108, 3115, 3115A, 3115B, 3115C, 3115D, 3115E, 3115F, 3115G, 3115H, 3115F-1, 3115F-2, 3116, 3118, 3201A, 3207, 3211, 3301, 3303, 3303-F, 3306, 3307, 3402, 3403, 3406, 3407, 3408, 3400, 3410, 5101, 5102, 5103, 5104, 5105, 5201, 5202, 5203, 5204, 5206, 5206A, 5206B, 5206C, 5206D, 5206E, 5208, 5209, 5210, 5212, 5213, 5301, 5302, 5303, 5304, 5305, 5306, 5307, 5308, 5309, 5400, 5401, 5402, 5403, 5404, 5405, 5407, 5409, 5411, 5415, 5416, 5420, 5421, 5502, 5503, 5506, 5507, 5510, 5601, 5602, 5603, 5701, 5702, 5703, 5704, 5705, 5706, 5707, 5709, 5710, 5711, 5712, 5713, 5714, 5715, 5804, 5805, 5806, and 5807 as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments (Non-Agenda items) - Kathy Wasser, Community Member - Class sizes in District; Jessica Peterson, Advocate - Atomic Waste; Reg Ion, Community Member - Atomic Waste, Pop machine contract, Picture of football player's back plate.

Cabinet Member Reports:

Jasiah Rawls, BHS Student - I am the Student Council Vice President. We are always busy in the Fall with Homecoming, pep rallies, football games and all other Fall activities. The Multimedia team will be interviewing the high school coaches to find out what or who inspired them to be a coach.

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent – Reggie Miller is fighting for HB 5093 regarding Radioactive Waste. I also want to say that she fought all night for the school budget as we are getting a zero foundation increase this year. We are hoping districts will receive some sort of supplemental amount later this fall. I went to the Superintendents' conference last week. There was a lot of discussion on the future of education.

John Leroy, Director of Human Resources - My department is helping to get information out to our staff on the clinic located at McBride Middle School. We will be speaking to all of the different union groups. The clinic will be hosting a flu shot clinic this week for all of our employees.

Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services - We are partnering with Belleville Fire Department for AED and First Aid assessments and training. The online portion of this training is complete and the hands-on training will be done in the schools soon.

Priya Nayak, Director of Finance - I have submitted all of the reports that are due to the State of Michigan. I am still waiting on the auditors to complete their report.

Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction - I want to give a shout out to the McBride Middle School staff and students. They recently held 2 separate assemblies, one for boys and one for girls. It was great information.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Darlene Loyer Gerick - The Band Review was amazing. I thought it was great how EMU acknowledged the other schools that were participating in the Band Review and then stayed after the event to meet with students from the other schools. The Soccer team's Senior Night is on Thursday.

Susan Featheringill - The Band Review was fabulous. The EMU band was amazing. It really shows the difference between the high school and college levels.

Amy Pearce - Mark Laginess has been in charge of the Band Review for 19 years. The planning for this event starts in the early summer and continues until the day of the event. It takes a lot of time and effort to pull off an event this large and he will be missed as he is stepping back from this event and letting someone else take over the reins. He will continue to support the Robotics Club. I want to give a shout out to the Transportation Department. The first few weeks of school are very tough. Just recently, Livonia School District cut their busing program as they did not have enough drivers to cover their routes. I will be attending the Wayne County Association of School Boards Meeting at Wayne Resa on October 10, 2024 to get information on the Regional Enhancement Millage.

Kelly Owen - The Band Review was great. It was fun to watch our band perform. Thank you to Diane Kiessel for all her service. I am sorry to see her leave.

Simone Pinter - I went to the Band Review last week. It was amazing. I had relatives in the band that performed before Belleville.

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

Regular session adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary