Van Buren Board of Education
Minutes of the Board of Education
Special Virtual Meeting

August 13, 2020

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

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

Motion by Keith Johnston, support by Kelly Owen, that the Board approves the agenda as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried with the following Roll Call vote: Featheringill – Aye, Gerick – Aye, Johnston – Aye, Owen – Aye, Pearce – Aye, C. Hawkins – Aye and Pinter – Aye, O nays.

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Agenda Items – A. Mears asked if the first two weeks of school would be half days. Mr. Kudlak answered - No

The only administrative item was the Change to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Recommendation. Mr. Kudlak explained that after the Board Meeting on Monday night, he met with other staff members regarding the start of the school year and the importance of being 100% ready to begin. Everyone felt that it was in the best interest to delay the start of school by two weeks. This will now make the first day of school Monday, September 14, 2020 (full day for everyone) and the last day of school June 15, 2021. The BOS program, remote classes and in-person classes will all begin on September 14, 2020. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Kelly Owen that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Change to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Recommendation of beginning the school year on Monday, September 14, 2020 instead of Tuesday, September 1, 2020 as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried with the following Roll call vote of A. Pearce – Aye, D. Gerick – Aye, K. Owen – Aye, C. Hawkins – Aye, and K. Johnston – Aye. S. Featheringill and S. Pinter abstained due to being related to a member in the VBEA unit. 0 – Nays.

Questions & Comments from the Audience for Non-Agenda Items – Mr. Kudlak read questions from the audience and then said they would all be answered the next day via email. Questions from the audience were about the Return to Learn Plan, Remote Learning and In-Person Learning.

Cabinet Member Reports: - None

Motion by Keith Johnston, support by Simone Pinter to adjourn the Special Meeting with the following Roll Call vote: Featheringill – Aye, Gerick – Aye, Owen – Aye, Pearce – Aye, K. Johnston – Aye, C. Hawkins - Aye and Pinter – Aye, 0 nays.

Regular session adjourned at 7:21p.m.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary