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

April 22, 2024

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

Board members present: Amy Pearce, Darlene Loyer Gerick, Kelly Owen, Susan Featheringill, Calvin Hawkins and Simone Pinter. Dionne Falconer was absent. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Peter Kudlak, Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction, Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services and James Williams, Director of Plant Operations. Priya Nayak, Director of Finance and John Leroy, Director of Human Resources were 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 Simone Pinter to approve the consent agenda as presented: Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2024; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Jessica Carlin, BHS teacher, 7 years of service, Resigned effective 5/10/24; Theresa Libs, Rawsonville teacher, 26 years of service, Retiring effective 6/30/24; Deborah Mounsey, Rawsonville teacher, 25 years of service, Retiring effective 6/30/24; Joseph Gaines, BHS teacher, 3 years of service, Resigned effective 6/6/24; Jonathan Gibson, Edgemont Speech Pathologist, 11 years of service, Retiring effective 6/30/24; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: Patricia Harris, McBride, 40 years of service, Retiring effective 6/6/24; Gregory Martinez, Building & Grounds, less than one year of service, Resigned effective 4/12/24; Franklin Keys, Transportation, 14 years of service, Retiring effective 6/7/24; Janet Key, Transportation, 27 years of service, Retiring effective 4/30/24; William McMichael, Rawsonville, 3 years of service, Resigned effective 4/19/24; Beverly Swank, Transportation, Sub Bus Aide, Hired effective 4/18/24; Jennifer Adams, Edgemont Parapro, Hired effective 4/29/24; Checks Payable and NJROTC Fort Custer Trip. Motion carried 6-0. Mr. Kudlak acknowledged the staff members retiring and their years of service.

Separate Check Approval: None

Administrative Items:

The first Administrative Item was the Middle School Illustrative Math Curriculum Presentation given by Renea Kurek, Secondary Instructional Support Coach. Ms. Kurek began the presentation by explaining what McBride has been using for math and what some of the difficulties have been with the current curriculum. For example, the difficulty has impeded their ability to effectively supplement lessons with additional practice problems and tailor the curriculum to meet the diverse needs of students. This lack of user-friendliness and flexibility in customization has impeded the program's effectiveness in facilitating personalized and engaging mathematical learning experiences. The process of evaluating and selecting Illustrative began in the Fall of the 2023-24 school year when the Math Curriculum RFP was posted in September 2023. A small team of math teachers and administrators convened to assess the bids, ultimately

choosing four to meet with (via zoom) in November. Following these meetings, the team selected Illustrative by Imagine Learning and Reveal by McGraw Hill to pilot. Subsequently, the math teachers divided into two teams, each piloting a program for the third card marking. In April, the math team convened to discuss the programs and ultimately opted for Illustrative by Imagine Learning. Ms. Kurek said that the budget implication for the new program amounts to $210,323.00 over five years. This cost encompasses student licenses for five years, print materials for the same duration, and the provision of three consumable workbooks annually per student, which also serve as their textbooks. Additionally, there are 10 professional development days scheduled, occurring twice a year for the next five years. Ms. Pinter asked if this program flows into the high school curriculum and Ms. Kurek replied yes. Ms. Pearce asked if she could list some of the items that the teachers said the current curriculum was lacking. Ms. Kurek said first - it is a digital only platform, secondly - it lacked remediation help and thirdly - it lacked quality practice skills lining up with what is being taught that day. Mr. Moore also commented that over the last couple of years the quality of coaching and support was getting worse and the company was starting to decline. Information only.

The second Administrative Item was the Sex Education Material Approval presented by Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction. Mr. Moore began by saying that the District uses the Michigan Model for Health. The Health Advisory Committee met to review materials and go over items that needed to be changed. There were also two meetings scheduled for parents to be able to review and give feedback on the videos that are used in the health curriculum. Mr. Moore also explained that gender identity is becoming a bigger topic and he is waiting to get feedback from parents, community and the State of Michigan on how the District will proceed. As a District, we need guidance on this topic and we want to do the education correctly. Ms. Pearce asked if 4th graders are separated into female and male groups for health lessons? Mr. Moore replied yes. Ms. Pearce also asked if HIV was the only sexually transmitted disease that we are able to teach and Mr. Moore replied yes as well. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Kelly Owen that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the VBPS Sex Education Materials for the district curriculum as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

The next Administrative Item was the School of Choice Fall 24-25 Application Approval presented by Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction. Mr. Moore presented the application and explained briefly the dates that School of Choice is available and how the process works. Ms. Pearce asked if this applies to employees' children too? Mr. Moore said yes. Staff that live out of district and would like to have their children attend VBPS, still have to go through the same application process. Motion by Kelly Owen, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Schools of Choice program participation under Section 105 and 105c for the First Semester of the 2024-2025 school year as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

The last Administrative Item was the IDS Student Clinic Architecture Proposal Approval presented by James Williams, Director of Plant Operations and Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services. Mr. Frazier and Mr. Williams presented this information at the last board meeting. Mr. Frazier answered questions from the board and clarified some information given last time. He explained that all treatment needs to have parental consent. Services will include: dental, vision, hearing, substance abuse, crisis intervention, psychology, housing stability and more. They cannot provide emergency medical services nor can they provide abortions or abortion counseling. The clinic will be able to provide services to students and families that

don't typically have this type of support. Parents may opt out at any time. The hours for the clinic will be during school Monday through Friday. Mr. Frazier was asked about Dionisia Munoz, District Resource Nurse. He explained that her role is different from the clinic, however, there will be times that she will work with them. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the IDS Student Clinic Architecture Proposal as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments (Non-Agenda items) - Kenneth Farr/Kevin Farr, BHS student & parent - Commencement ceremony award chords.

Cabinet Member Reports:

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent – I gave each of the board members a pamphlet of the services that Wayne Resa provides that will help when it comes time to review the county budget. The Wayne Resa budget will go to the board for approval at the May 28, 2024 meeting. Debbie sent you links for three virtual meetings that you are able to attend and ask questions regarding the budget. I want to thank Robotic coaches, Aaron Lang and Aaron Watkins, as well as all the mentors and people behind the scenes for their hard work to make this program great. Our track team is doing very well this year. The boys and girls teams both got first place in the tournament this past weekend. Our Esports team also did well and Adam Howard is one of the finalists for Coach of the Year.

Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction - Kindergarten Round Up is tomorrow at 6:00pm at all of the elementary buildings. This year, just like prior years, we will have a nurse at each of the schools in case families are in need of vaccines for their students. We are in the middle of testing right now. The SAT test is online for the first time this year and it is going well. We have had a few issues with the MStep testing but we are working through them. I would like to thank LaShawn Rushing, testing coordinator at the high school, for doing a great job this year. One last note - we were looking at changing our website provider for next year but after doing some more research, we have decided to stay with Apptegy and instead do a refresh over the summer.

Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services - We are in the middle of closing out grants, budgets, purchasing, etc. in the Special Education department. I attended a conference today on Autism with some other VBPS staff. It was very informative.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations - I am overseeing security designs for the front offices of Tyler and Savage Elementary schools. IDS is working on a plan and proposal for this work. This project would come out of the Sinking Fund and Safety Grant Fund budgets. The design will be the same at both of these buildings.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Darlene Loyer Gerick - The Robotic World Championships were held in Detroit the last three years. Now it is held in Houston. I went to the Mama Mia play. McBride did an amazing job.

Calvin Hawkins - There was a great Robotics article about the Houston competition. The State of Michigan has the most teams represented at the World Championships.

Susan Featheringill - I went to the Mama Mia play. It was very good.

Amy Pearce - Congratulations to the Robotics team. Our condolences go out to the Lake Orion team that lost one of their teammates. Thanks to all the Robotics coaches, mentors, volunteers and parents for all their hard work. Mama Mia was amazing, especially the music. Mr. Kudlak added that the pits in the BHS auditorium are very small and Mr. Taylor has suggested trying to expand them. He will be bringing some ideas to the table.

Simone Pinter - I watched the Robotics competition live on my ipad. I am so proud of them.

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

Regular session adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary