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

November 27, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Belleville High School Commons on November 27, 2017. President Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Board members present: Alison Bennett, Kevin English, Susan Featheringill, Darlene Loyer Gerick, Keith Johnston, Kelly Owen and Simone Pinter. Also in attendance were Superintendent Peter Kudlak, Abdul Madyun, Director of Human Resources, Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction and Shareen Barker, Director of Finance.

Motion to approve the Agenda by Kelly Owen, supported by Kevin English. Motion carried unanimously.

Questions and comments from the audience regarding agenda items – None.

Consent Agenda

Consent agenda: Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Darlene Loyer Gerick, to approve the consent agenda as presented: Regular Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2017, Closed Session Minutes from 11/13/2017 were not included and will be approved at the next meeting, Check Register with Check #141288 to Johnston Lithograph pulled for a separate vote, Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Recommendations for Hire: Jessica Carlin, BHS English Teacher, effective 11/27/2017. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Susan Featheringill, supported by Kevin English to appove Check #141288 to Johnston Lithograph. Motion carried with Keith Johnston abstaining from the vote.

The first administrative item was the recommendation to approve Schools of Choice for the Second Semester of the 2017 – 2018 school year. Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction, explained the importance of this offering for the School District. Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Alison Bennett that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Schools of Choice program participation under Section 105 and 105c for the second semester of the 2017 – 2018 school year as presented. There was discussion about the process in place for accepting schools of choice students from other District. Motion carried.

The second administrative item was presented by Superintendent Kudlak. This was a resolution that many school districts are adopting with the new legislation before the Senate and House to allow a special endorsement for individuals with a concealed weapons permit to carry a weapon on school grounds. This resolution urges state government officials debating this topic to enact legislation to declare school grounds as a safety sensitive zone and to allow local school boards to enact policies prohibiting an individual who is licensed to carry a concealed pistol from carrying a pistol, whether concealed or unconcealed, on school grounds, unless statutorily required to permit possession of firearms, such as for law enforcement personnel. There was discussion. Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Alison Bennett that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education adopt the Resolution regarding firearms in public schools as presented. Motion carried with Keith Johnston, Alison Bennett, Kevin English, Kelly Owen, and Susan Featheringill voting yes, and Simone Pinter and Darlene Loyer Gerick voting no. Superintendent Kudlak will forward the resolution to Lansing legislators and the Governor.

The third administrative item was the Budget Amendment Resolution presented by Shareen Barker, Director of Finance. This is the first amendment to the budget approved in June, 2017. There was discussion. Motion by Kevin English, supported by Kelly Owen to approve the 2017 – 2018 Budget Amendment Resolution as presented. Motion carried.

Questions and comments from the audience regarding non-agenda items - None

Items of Business from Members of the Board

Ms. Featheringill said the fall high school play was excellent. Ms. Loyer-Gerick agreed. Ms. Owen said the Winterfest Parade begins at 6:00 pm on December 2, 2017. She also commented on the BHS band marching in the Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit. Mr. Johnston would like to take a look at the electric bills at each of the schools. He thinks it would be wise to conduct an audit. Football sales from the last home game totaled over $10,000.00.

President Johnston noted that there was a need for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of Open Meetings Act Section 8 (a) – Periodic Personnel Evaluation for the Superintendent.

The Board returned to open session at 8:28 pm without taking action.

There was a motion by Kevin English, supported by Kelly Owen, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

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Kevin English,
Board Secretary

Pam Johnson
Recording Secretary