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

November 10, 2025

President Amy Pearce called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00pm at the Belleville High School Commons at 501 W. Columbia Ave, Belleville, MI 48111.

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

Motion by Calvin Hawkins, support by David Shall that the Board approves the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments (Agenda Items) - None

Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Wade Fields to approve the consent agenda as presented: Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2025; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Curtissa Frison, Owen 5th grade Teacher, Hired effective 11/17/25; Jennifer Frazier, McBride Middle School Resource Room Teacher, Hired effective 11/17/25; Requested Changes in Non-Instructional Staff: Joumana Kadri, Admin Building Curriculum Admin Asst., 3 years of service, Resigned effective 11/11/25; William Frazier, Rawsonville Paraprofessional, 38 years of service, Retiring effective 6/30/26; and Checks Payable. Motion carried 6-0.

Separate Check Approval: None

Administrative Items:

The first Administrative Item was the CM Granger Contract Approval presented by James Williams, Director of Plant Operations and Rob Kakoczki, Plante Moran Realpoint. Mr. Kakoczki and Mr. Williams explained this process thoroughly at the last board meeting and they are at this meeting to answer any questions the board has pertaining to the CM Granger Contract and the selection process. There were not any questions. Motion by Amy Pearce, support by Darlene Loyer Gerick that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve Granger Construction Company as the Construction Management Firm for the VBPS 2025 Bond Program enter into a Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Construction Manager as Constructor (AIA Document A133-2019) with Granger Construction Company, with final costs and terms to be negotiated by The Project Team, VBPS Administration and the district's legal counsel and their contract at this time will be based on their Pre-Construction Services not-to-exceed $321,485 and their CM Fee is 2.0% as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

The second Administrative Item was the A/E Contract Approval presented by James Williams, Director of Plant Operations and Rob Kakoczki, Plante Moran Realpoint. Mr. Kakoczki and Mr. Williams explained the A/E Contract at the last board meeting and did not have any other

questions regarding the contract or the selection process. Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Wade Fields that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Architectural / Engineering Design Services contract for the VBPS 2025 Bond Program to The Collaborative + Acock with a total award recommendation of $3,399,481 which includes a total fixed fee of $3,249,481 and a Not-To-Exceed amount of $150,000 for Reimbursable expenses as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

The third Administrative Item was the Fall Building Presentations. Dr. Pitts and Rawsonville Elementary School were the first to present. Dr. Pitts brought Instructional Coach Melanie Karaba with her. She said that their focus this year will be Strengthening, Foundational Reading and Skills. We will work on strengthening Tier 1 instruction in front of the teacher then filter out the students that need extra support. Those students will get Tier 2 and Tier 3 support. Dionne Falconer asked how the parents are informed about what the students are learning in the classroom? Dr. Pitts said that we have a monthly newsletter that goes out to parents and families and lets them know what is going on in their classroom as well as their school. The next presentation was from Tyler Elementary Principal Jenn Kitchen. Ms. Kitchen began by reviewing her data first. We are hoping that our new ELA curriculum will increase this year's data and we will see that with the comparison in the spring. Amy Pearce said that she loves the legend for the data. She also loves that the focus is on all the areas. I like that you showed your specific goals too. Calvin Hawkins asked if you feel like you have all the tools you need to meet your goals this year? Ms. Kitchen said yes we do so far. The last presentation was from the ECC Principal Melissa Petty. Ms. Petty gave an overview of all the programs offered at the Early Childhood Center. Ms. Petty said we will be focusing on PBIS this year. She went through the implementation process and how the data will be tracked. She explained that PBIS is always ongoing. Mr. Shall asked what the population was in the ECC building. Ms. Petty said GSRP is full with 120 students, Strong Beginnings is full with 14 students, Tuition Childcare with Infants - 4 with 50 students and Connect and Communicate has 2 full sections of 28 students each and they are looking at opening a third section. The ECP classes are full too. Ms. Pearce asked if we knew what the 4 new classrooms at the ECC building will be used for once they are built? Mr. Kudlak replied not yet. Information only.

The last Administrative Item was the Non-Affiliated Pay Approval presented by Pete Kudlak, Superintendent. Mr. Kudlak said that other district comparisons were added to the packet this week as requested by board members at the last meeting. He did not have any other questions. Motion by Dionne Falconer, support by Calvin Hawkins that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approves the Non-Affiliated Salaries as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments (Non-Agenda items) - B. Harsch, Parent - Athletics/Owen School and A. Mears, Parent - Dine to Donate Fundraisers.

Cabinet Member Reports:

BHS Student, Dayton Jenkins - Vice President of Senior Class of 2026. I want to give a shout out to the fall sport teams. I am excited for winter sports to start. Quarter 1 ended and Quarter 2 is starting. The next FAFSA night will be on December 3, 2025. The Class of 2026 is hosting their annual craftshow on November 22 from 9am - 3pm in the BHS Commons. The BHS Play

is November 20 - 22, 2025. The Unified Teams Bowling Fundraiser will be held on December 12, 2025. We also have the annual toy drive coming up.

Pete Kudlak, Superintendent – I want to Thank the voters for passing the bond. There will be many things amping up now and there will be lots to do. Thank you to the board members and staff members. The VBPSEF Trivia Night is on Friday at the BYC.

Priya Nayak, Director of Finance - The last audit reports were uploaded to the transparency section on our website. I am currently working on the Champs report now. It is the end of the 2025 calendar year and we are getting ready for W2's and 1099's.

Julien Frazier, Director of Student Services - I am working on the Act 18 Budget Amendment.

John Leroy, Director of Human Resources - Open Enrollment for Medical Benefits is going on right now. There are also virtual sessions with SetSeg that employees are able to attend if they have questions or concerns regarding their medical decisions. Open enrollment closes on Friday, November 14, 2025.

Jill Marvaso, Director of Instruction - I am following up on tools that the schools and staff may need for our partnership with UFLI. We want them to be successful. I am working on MTSS at the middle school. Renea is working on the scheduling structures for the middle school students. I have been working with the Leadership team for the next PD day. I am also starting the Summer School planning. I am looking to partner with Wayne Resa.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations - The Rawsonville Heating and Cooling project has bids due the middle of next week. We will be bringing it to the board soon. With the passage of the 2025 Bond, we have started moving on items for it already and we have started scheduling the kick-off meetings.

Items of Business from the Members of the Board:

Darlene Loyer Gerick - I am sad that the football season has come to an end. I can't wait for the band projects to begin.

Amy Pearce - I received a lot of feedback on the Bond Proposal. I want people to know that we can do it all - fix our scores and keep up our buildings especially with the help of our community. Owen is having their annual food drive and Thanksgiving Dinner. If you would like to support, please reach out to Owen Intermediate School. Harper's Toy Drive was launched. Flyers are out with the information if you would like to donate. There are also bins around town collecting donations. From the principals' reports: One of McBride's 8th graders has one of the top essays in the Patriot Pen Essay Contest; and Tyler Elementary is learning about the 3 branches of government.

Dionne Falconer - The football team did very well. They can now focus on next year. I am excited for the McBride students to experience all the programs that they have implemented this year.

David Shall - I was very encouraged by Tyler's presentation.

Wade Fields - The Robotics Competition weekend was very busy. We received a lot of compliments about how the event was run and how organized it was.

Calvin Hawkins - I attended the Robotics competition and I enjoyed it immensely. I explained the Bond proposal to a lot of people and what it will bring to our district. I liked the presentations and want the staff to be able to tell us what they need to succeed.

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)(h) To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute at 8:42 pm. Motion carried 6-0 with the following roll call vote - Wade Fields - Aye, Calvin Hawkins - Aye, David Shall - Aye, Amy Pearce - Aye, Dionne Falconer - Aye, and Darlene Loyer Gerick - Aye.

President Amy Pearce declared they would come back to open session at 9:27 pm.

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

Regular session adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Darlene Loyer Gerick
Board of Education Secretary

Debra McWilliams
Recording Secretary