

Van Buren Board of Education
Minutes of the Board of Education
Belleville High School Commons

REGULAR MEETING
December 7, 2015

President Mikulski called the Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Brent Mikulski, Martha Toth, Kevin English, Kathy Kovach, Sherry Frazier, Kelly Owen and Alison Bennett, Superintendent Michael Van Tassel, Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources, Shareen Barker, Director of Finance, and Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

President Mikulski opened the meeting by announcing that the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation was at the meeting to present the grant awards check for the 2015 – 2016 school year. Board members thanked the Foundation for its continued commitment to the Van Buren Public Schools.

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Agenda Items – None

Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Sherry Frazier, to approve the consent agenda as amended: Minutes from the November 9, 2015, Regular Meeting as amended to reflect language change from “...renewal will save the District approximately \$700,000 annually in ~~maintenance~~ to **major repair and facility upgrade** expenses ...”; Minutes from the November 16, 2015 Special Meeting; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Requesting Termination: Jon Zajac, Athletic Director, effective 11/25/2015, Position closer to home; Requested for Employment: Bonnie Lopez, Counselor, McBride, effective 11/23/2015; Meghann Ginstet, Teacher, Owen Intermediate; Jessica Roberts, Teacher, McBride; Requested Changes in Support Staff: Requesting Termination: Kathryn Zalewski, Transportation, effective 12/3/2015, Resigned; Lorraine Kennedy, Transportation Bus Driver, effective 1/4/2016, Retirement; Requested for Employment: Brandi Dalton, Custodian/McBride, effective 12/2/2015; October Check Register. There was discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent’s Report:

The District has applied for a Grant from Michigan Assessment for Learning Project. Last week the District was approached by a school improvement consultant at Wayne RESA who sits on the Board of this project and felt we would be a good candidate to receive the grant. It allows Districts to utilize assessment and innovation to help shape the way we assess our practices and instructions. There will be 12 grants awarded across the United States. The grant duration is between six and 24 months. We are excited to find out if we will be chosen. It is a very forward thinking project.

Mr. Moore presented information on Atlas Rubicon Curriculum software management system which may be used to centralize curriculum in core areas. It allows a central location digitally to manage curriculum throughout district. We are testing it right now. Wayne RESA has worked to make this affordable to all Wayne County Districts.

Paula Gentile, Science Teacher at Belleville High School received the 2016 Teacher of Promise of the Michigan Science Teacher Association.

Superintendent Van Tassel introduced Dr. Grant Chandler, Director of the MIExcel program. Dr. Chandler was present to discuss Turnaround Schools with the Board. Dr. Chandler gave a lengthy presentation on this new model for addressing student achievement. He noted that Van Buren Public Schools was one of the early adopters of this model and he predicted that Van Buren Public Schools will lead the way in the modeling of this program. This was information only.

Superintendent Van Tassel and Board Members thanked Dr. Chandler for his time.

Shareen Barker, Director of Finance presented a recommendation to approve the Annual Summer Tax Collection Resolution as presented. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Martha Toth, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Annual Summer Tax Collection Resolution as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Moore presented a recommendation to the Board to approve the limited Schools of Choice Program for the second semester of the 2015 – 2016 school year as presented. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kevin English, 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 2015-2016 school year as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Van Tassel stated that there was a need to schedule the January Regular School Board Meeting, as that is the Organizational Meeting and traditionally where all meeting dates are scheduled for the year. It was recommended that the January meeting be held on the second Monday in January, January 11, 2016. Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Kathy Kovach that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the January Organizational & Regular Meetings be held on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Belleville High School Commons. There was discussion. Motion carried.

Questions and Comments from the Audience (Non-Agenda Items): None

Other Items from the Board:

January Policies will come to January Meeting for first reading. Mrs. Gee will be making a presentation from Savage. Every Work Study beginning in January we will discuss Turnaround plans and sharing data. Reminder of BHS Concerts coming up in December: Concert Band Tuesday, Symphony Band on Thursday.

President Mikulski thanked the Van Buren Public Schools Educational Foundation for the impact of Educational Foundation Grants for the District. He reminded the Board that there would not be a work study this month.

Motion by Kevin English, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 8:50pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin English
Secretary, Board of Education

Pam Johnson, Recording Secretary