

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

REGULAR MEETING
September 14, 2015

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

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

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

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Agenda Items – None

Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kathy Kovach, to approve the consent agenda: Minutes from the August 10, 2015, Regular Meeting; Minutes from the August 10, 2015, Executive Session; Minutes from the August 17, 2015, Regular Meeting; Minutes from the August 17, 2015, Executive Session; August Check Register; Requested Changes in Support Staff: Requesting Termination: Vernor Wilson, cafeteria worker, resignation effective 8/19/2015; Kisma Davis, transportation, resignation, effective 8/25/2015; Requested for Employment: Jamie Baker, paraprofessional, effective 9/8/2015; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Requesting Termination: Megan King, effective 8/20/2015; Matthew Kazmierski, effective 8/24/2015; Bridget Dennehy, effective 8/25/2015; and Katelyn Hadyniak, effective 8/28/2015; Requested for Employment: Danielle Smith, McBride, effective 9/1/2015; Keyon Hoskins, Rawsonville, effective 9/1/2015; Kim Ferrell, BHS, effective 9/1/2015; Fatima Thompson, Rawsonville, effective 9/1/2015; Victoria Henderson, McBride, effective 9/1/2015; John Hill, BHS, effective 9/1/2015; Robert Taylor, BHS, effective 9/1/2015; Keith Kelsey, Owen, effective 9/1/2015. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Mikulski mentioned a new item to the agenda – a report from the Superintendent. Mr. Van Tassel spoke about several items:

- Successful First Day of school – due to significant planning and execution by all.
 - He noted that he was able to visit every classroom in the District on the first day, not for long, but at least able to say hello.
 - Transportation had some bumps, as there always will be, but progress is being made. We need to remember that Van Buren has the largest geographic area of coverage, as well as the largest budget for transportation in Wayne County, but lowest cost per pupil. He commended Ms. Bliven and her team for the hard work that the transportation department has done.
- Count – at next Board meeting will give more specific numbers. Trends, as projected, show a drop in kindergarten numbers and also a bit of a drop at BHS. Mr Madyun is looking into those losses. We know there is a smaller freshmen class than in the past, and the senior class is smaller.

- He noted that there was a Professional Development survey for teachers and the feedback was extremely positive. He asked Mr. Moore to discuss.

Jon Zajac, Athletics Director and Assistant Principal at Belleville High School made a presentation to the Board on the Athletics Department for the 2014 – 2015 school year. This was information only. Mr. Mikulski asked if this information was share with the coaching staff and Mr. Zajac indicated it was. Mr. Mikulski requested that Board members be invited to end of year presentation to coaches.

Superintendent Van Tassel stated that there were Policy Updates for the Board and they were being presented for a first reading at tonight's meeting. The Policies to be revised were 1240, 1420, 3220, 3120, 4120, 5320, 2260.01, 5112, 5114, 5460, and 8390. There was discussion. No action necessary. Superintendent Van Tassel indicated that these policy updates will come to the next Board Meeting as an action item to be adopted.

Mr. Mikulski noted that with Mr. Russell's departure from the Board there was a vacancy on the Policy committee. A decision will be made at a future date as to whether to add another member or leave it at 2 members.

Karen Johnston, Director of Special Services presented a recommendation to the Board for a Wayne RESA Parent Action Committee (PAC) representative, Christina Whisenhunt. The rules require the representative be a parent with a student enrolled in our District currently. Our previous parent representative's appointment has expired. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Alison Bennett, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the nomination of Christina Whisenhunt as a representative to Wayne RESA's Parent Advisory Committee. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction made a presentation to the Board on the District Data Dialogue Protocol being utilized in the District to ensure that all buildings are implementing a systematic approach to analyzing data. This was an informational item only.

Questions and Comments from the Audience (Non-Agenda Items): G. Earns – spoke on State of the District speech by Mr. Van Tassel, handed out a testing article written by a student, and appreciates the Superintendent's Twitter feed about the District. A. Vanderberg – questioned why the Gifted and Talented program was not listed in the Voice as important programs the District has to offer.

Other Items from the Board: M. Toth: \$2.5 million spent before arrival of first state aid payment. S. Frazier, need to embrace our local newspapers, mend fences. K Kovach went to Rawsonville open house, huge turnout. Work Study will be about turnaround schools conference, board procedures.

President Mikulski indicated that there was a need to go into Executive Session, pursuant to the Open Meetings Action Section 8(c). Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Sherry Frazier, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education adjourn into Executive Session at 8:08. Roll call vote: Motion was unanimously carried.

The Board returned to Open Session of the Regular Meeting at 8:51pm without taking action.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 8:52 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Pam Johnson,
Recording Secretary

Kevin English
Secretary, Board of Education