

Van Buren Board of Education
Minutes of the Board of Education
Administration Building

SPECIAL MEETING
August 17, 2015

President Mikulski called the Special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He began the meeting by speaking to the procedures for Board Meetings for both the public and board members. He noted that there was availability for public comment two times during the meeting. While the public has the right to make comments and ask questions, those questions will not be answered immediately, but will be answered by someone from Administration or the Board at a later time. He reminded the Board members of this procedure as well.

Board members present: Brent Mikulski, Martha Toth, Sherry Frazier, Alison Bennett, Kathy Kovach, and Kelly Owen. Kevin English was excused. Ms. Toth acted as Secretary for this meeting. Also in attendance were Superintendent Michael Van Tassel, Shareen Barker, Director of Finance, and Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction, and James Williams, Director of Plant Operations.

President Mikulski indicated that there was a need to go into Executive Session, pursuant to the Open Meetings Action Section 8(h). Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education adjourn into Executive Session at 7:05 pm. Roll call vote: All members voted aye to adjourn to Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session of the Special Meeting at 7:25 pm without taking action.

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Agenda Items – None

Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Requested Changes in Support Staff: Requesting Termination: Heather Wolf, Paraprofessional, effective 8/12/2015, education; Sandra Youmans, Transportation, effective 8/10/2015, resignation; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Requesting Termination: Gunesha Frederick, Teacher, 2/15/2016, resignation; Requesting Employment, Kelly Kubrak, McBride Teacher, Dawn McFarlin, McBride Teacher. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Eric Dumont of Plante Moran CRESA presented a recommendation for the Rawsonville Elementary School Civil and Parking Lot Project. It was noted that the Parking Lot is not configured for appropriate traffic flow. Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Alison Bennett that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the total project cost of \$271,540 and award the construction contract to Best Asphalt in the amount of \$208,000 as part of the overall Rawsonville elementary School Civil Parking Lot Project. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Van Tassel and Director of Instruction Jeff Moore presented a report on the plan to better support all students' learning in the coming year. Plans revolve around well-designed and consistently implemented curriculum, an expanded portfolio of effective teaching practices, and fostering of school culture that ensures students feel safe and comfortable in the building. The Board was advised that the State's evaluation of our schools almost entirely rests on the achievement gap between our most and least successful students. This was an information item only and no action was necessary.

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Non-Agenda Items – None

Superintendent Van Tassel informed the Board that he would be attending a two day Turnaround Conference for Focus Schools on August 27 and August 28.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Special Board Meeting be adjourned at 9:47 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Pam Johnson,
Recording Secretary

Kevin English
Secretary, Board of Education