

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

REGULAR MEETING
July 20, 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, and Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction.

Mr. Mikulski wanted to welcome Mr. Moore to his first official board meeting as Director of Instruction.

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

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Agenda Items – B. Rogale Miller ask a question on the sound system proposal. President Mikulski indicated this question would be answered later in the agenda.

Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Sherry Frazier, to approve the consent agenda: Regular minutes from the June 22, 2015, Regular Meeting, June 22, 2015 Executive Session Minutes; June and July Check Registers; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Recommended for Employment: Carly Rose, BHS- Spanish, 9/1/2015; Kyle Gleason, BHS – Math, 9/1/2015; Tracy Rumfelt, McBride – Science, 9/1/2015; Nicole Karaboyas, McBride – Math, 9/1/2015; Jotana Chester, Owen – Music, 9/1/2015; Betty Small, BHS – Business, 9/1/2015; Renee Rook, McBride – Spanish, 9/1/2015; Neva Jasman, Owen - Special Education, 9/1/2015. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources presented a recommendation for the Savage Elementary Principal. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve Amy Gee as Principal at Savage Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year and that she be granted a one year contract. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources presented the Annual Anti-Bullying Report to the Board of Education. This was for information only. There was discussion.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations presented a recommendation for the replacement of the District dump truck that was destroyed in the Bus Garage fire in November, 2014. Motion by Kathy Kovach, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of a 2016 Ford F550 XLT dump truck from Atchinson Ford in the amount of \$ 45,979.40, and the snow plow and salt spreader installed and painted from Truck & Trailer Specialties, Inc. in the amount of \$33,750 as presented. It was noted that the majority of this purchase cost would be covered by insurance. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations presented a recommendation for the Sound System upgrades for the Belleville High School Auditorium. Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Alison

Bennett, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of the sound system for the Belleville High School Auditorium from Sweetwater at a price of \$114,645.96, and Dynamic Group Solutions for \$17,480.60, for a total of \$132,126.56 as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Van Tassel presented information regarding the Sinking Fund Renewal survey and possible scenarios for the Board of Education to consider. He noted that this is presented as information; however, should the Board decide to act on moving forward with the millage renewal, there were two different resolutions for their consideration—one at .50 mills and the other at the original 1.13 mills. Superintendent Van Tassel recommended that the Board go for .50 mills renewal request or not go at all. Discussion was held.

Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Martha Toth, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the resolution Authorizing Sinking Fund Millage Proposition, Building and Site Sinking fund Tax Levy to create a sinking fund for the purpose of construction or repair of school buildings and improvement and development of sites and for any other purpose which may be authorized by law, and be authorized to levy not to exceed .50 mills (\$.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of seven (7) years, 2016 to 2022 inclusive. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mikulski noted that he had a booklet produced by the Michigan Association of School Boards about ways in which board members may communicate positive information about the school district to community members. He stated that he would have the Superintendent's Office forward a copy to each board member.

Questions and Comments from the Audience (Non-Agenda Items): A. Mears – Asked a question regarding survey offer made at a previous meeting.

Other Items from the Board:

There was a brief discussion about exit interviews and the communication of information regarding employees leaving the District given to Board members.

Mrs. Kovach thanks Mrs. Toth for keeping the Board informed about current and future legislation and happenings at the Michigan Department of Education.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 8:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin English
Secretary, Board of Education

Pam Johnson,
Recording Secretary