

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

REGULAR MEETING
June 22, 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 Diane Kullis, Director of Instruction.

President Mikulski noted that there was a need for the Board to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act. There was a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 7:07 pm without taking action.

Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Agenda Items – There was a question regarding the timeline for replacing the Savage Principal position.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Martha Toth, to approve the consent agenda: Regular minutes from the June 8, 2015, Regular Meeting, June 15, 2015 Public Hearing Minutes, June 15, 2015 Work Study Session Minutes, Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Terminations: James Benton, Counselor, 2 years of service, effective June 30, 2015 leaving education; Kelley Villa, Principal, 19 years of service, resignation; Mark Gregor, PE Teacher, layoff. Recommended for Employment: Anthony Teldadi, Chemistry Teacher; Eric Johnson, Counselor; Peter Fashho, Counselor. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Several board members expressed regret over the loss of Ms. Villa.

Shareen Barker, Director of Finance presented a recommendation for the approval of the 2014 – 2015 Budget Amendment. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the 2014 – 2015 Budget Amendment as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Shareen Barker, Director of Finance presented a recommendation for the approval of the 2015 – 2016 Budget, presented by Shareen Barker, Director of Finance. Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Alison Bennett, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the 2015 – 2016 Budget as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Shareen Barker, Director of Finance presented a recommendation for the approval of the 2015 Tax Rate Certification Resolution as presented. Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the 2015 Tax Rate Certification Resolution as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources presented a recommendation that the Board of Education ratify the contract economic reopener for the 2015 – 2016 school year with the Van Buren Education Association (Teacher’s Union) as presented. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education ratify the contract economic reopener for the 2015 – 2016 school year with the Van Buren Education Association (Teacher’s Union) as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried with one abstention. Kevin English abstained due to fiancé being a part of the bargaining unit.

Principal Abdul Madyun and Assistant Stacey Buhro of Belleville High School presented a recommendation for a new course proposal for African American Literature. Motion by Kevin English, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the African American Literature Course proposal for Belleville High School as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Principal Abdul Madyun and Assistant Stacey Buhro of Belleville High School presented a recommendation for an additional Advanced Placement Calculus course (Calculus BC) proposal to offer additional higher level courses for students. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Advanced Placement Calculus BC proposal for Belleville High School as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Van Tassel presented information regarding the replacement of the Batwing Lawnmower due to the bus garage fire in November. The cost of this mower is covered 100% by insurance. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Alison Bennett, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approved the purchase of a Toro Groundmaster 5910 batwing mower from Spartan Distributors in the amount of \$93,950.26 as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Van Tassel presented information regarding the replacement of the Transportation Service Truck that was lost due to the bus garage fire in November. He noted that due to the age and condition of this truck, it was not covered by insurance; therefore, the replacement cost would come from the General Funds budget. Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Sherry Frazier, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of a Ford F350 truck from Atchinson Ford in the amount of \$27,839.24 from the general budget as presented. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Questions and Comments from the Audience (Non-Agenda Items): R. Rytman – Spoke on the evaluation process & teacher retention, B. Rogale-Miller – Asked if the Board is aware of all lawsuits and settlements; Mr. Zolton - Agree with previous speakers; J. Champagne – Will be hard to find someone with the rapport and relationships with staff. A. Mears – Asked why BHS did not offer AP Spanish; A. Vandenbergh, stated that she felt it was disingenuous to say we don’t have to layoff when people are leaving on their own.

Other Items from the Board: B. Mikulski suggested that information previously shared with the Board on turnover of administration and teachers be compiled and shared at a future work study session if needed.

Next Meeting: Superintendent Van Tassel indicated at the next Work Study Session there would be discussion on Advanced Placement data.

Motion by Kathy Kovach, supported by Kevin English, that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 8:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Pam Johnson,
Recording Secretary

Kevin English
Secretary, Board of Education