

**Van Buren Board of Education**  
Minutes of the Board of Education  
Work Study Session  
May 18, 2015

President Mikulski called the Work Study Session to order at 7:00 pm.

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

A motion was made by Kelly Owen, and supported by Sherry Frazier, that the Board approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the Audience on Agenda Items – A. Byrd addressed the Board regarding the recent sinking fund millage. He volunteered to be part of any committee moving forward to help promote the sinking fund millage.

The first agenda item was the discussion regarding the status of the sinking fund millage. Superintendent Van Tassel presented information on the past history regarding millages taken to the voters and their pass and fail rates. He recommended that if the Board intends to move forward with another attempt to pass the sinking fund renewal, the District have a community survey completed to determine why the millage didn't pass and what the community feels regarding this type of request. He noted that after checking into two different companies he would utilize EPIC-MRA to do that survey. Because the cost is at a level that he has the authority to approve, it does not need to come to the Board for approval, but he would like a consensus. There was discussion. Superintendent Van Tassel indicated that he would move forward with having the survey completed and the timeline would be such that information would be back in time for the Board to make a decision on any sinking fund ballot issue in July.

The second agenda item was a presentation by Rebecca Ross, Instructional Coach, on all of the systems that have been put in place by the District this past year to support teachers in offering the most successful teaching strategies to the students we serve. There was discussion.

Comments from Audience on Non-Agenda Items – None.

President Mikulski indicated that there was a need to go into Executive Session subject to the Open Meetings Act Sections 8(c) and 8(h). Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Sherry Frazier that the Regular Meeting be adjourned at 8:26 pm. There was a roll call vote and it was carried unanimously.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:12 pm without taking action during Executive Session. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kevin English that the Regular Meeting be adjourned at 9:13 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

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Kevin English,  
Secretary, Board of Education