

Van Buren Board of Education
Minutes of the Board of Education
REGULAR MEETING
April 13, 2015

President Mikulski called the Regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Mr. Mikulski offered the Board's thanks to the principal and staff of Savage for the tour of the building.

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, Shareen Barker, Director of Finance, Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources, and Diane Kullis, Director of Instruction.

Motion by Martha Toth, 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 Sherry Frazier, supported by Martha Toth, to approve the consent agenda: Regular minutes from the March 16, 2015, March 16, 2015 Executive Session Minutes, March 23, 2015 Special Board Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2015 Work Study Session Minutes, Check Register for the month of March, Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Terminations: Susan Pinter, Savage, 13 years effective 6/30/2015, Retirement; Kim Fairchild, McBride, 31 years, effective 3/31/2015, Retirement; Katherine Jones, Owen, 10 years, effective 8/30/2015, Retirement; Pamela Ray, Savage, 35 years, effective 6/30/2015, Retirement. Motion carried unanimously.

The first Administrative Item was a presentation by McBride Middle School, Principal John Leroy, Assistant Principal, Rod Fisher and Dean of Students, Laura Maher. A review of the implementation and progress being made to address student achievement issues was discussed.

Eric Dumont of Plante Moran CRESA made a presentation to the Board regarding the project recommendation for the Owen Intermediate Boiler System. There was discussion regarding the wording of this motion and the other sinking fund motions in the agenda. The decision was made to not state the contingency amounts in the motions. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Board of Education approve the 2015 Sinking Fund Boiler and Mechanical Replacement Project for Owen Intermediate School be awarded to Allied Building Services of Detroit (Mechanical Contractor - \$562,140), ETC (Abatement Design & Monitoring - \$3,775) and Global Green Service Group (Abatement Removal - \$22,450) in an amount not to exceed \$588,365 from 2015 Sinking Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Eric Dumont of Plante Moran CRESA made a presentation to the Board regarding a project recommendation for Signage Replacement at various buildings. There was discussion. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Board of Education approve the 2015 Sinking Fund exterior signage replacement projects at Edgemont, McBride and Rawsonville Schools including an award of \$53,461.98 to Valley City Signs not to exceed a total cost of \$ 53,461.98 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Eric Dumont of Plante Moran CRESA made a presentation to the Board regarding a project recommendation for Civil Engineering award for the Rawsonville Parking Lot reconfiguration. There was discussion. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kevin English, that the Van Buren Board of Education approve the 2015 Sinking Fund Rawsonville Parking Lot Project be awarded to Hennessey

Engineers in an amount of \$13,400 for a project total not to exceed \$13,400 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

James Williams, Director of Plant Operations made a recommendation to accept the Denton Road Land Lease renewal as presented. There was discussion. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Van Buren Board of Education approve the lease of the Denton Road property to Mr. Alfred Block for 2015, 2016 and 2017, with an option for renewal, in the amount of \$1,750 per year for a total of \$5,250 for three years. The payments of \$1,750 will be due on March 1st of 2015, 2016, and 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources, presented a recommendation to the Board that they ratify the 2015 Van Buren Food Service Association contract as presented. There was discussion. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Martha Toth, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the Van Buren Food Service Association contract for the 2014-2015 school year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources, presented a recommendation to the Board that they approve the Letter of Agreement between Van Buren Public Schools and the Van Buren Education Association for a 1% increase as presented. There was discussion. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Sherry Frazier, that the Van Buren Board of Education approve the Letter of Agreement for a 1% increase to the 2014-2015 salary schedule for the Van Buren Education Association as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Kevin English stated that he would be abstaining from the vote due to conflict of interest, due to his relationship with a teacher.

Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources, presented a recommendation to the Board that they approve the Letter of Agreement between Van Buren Public Schools and the Van Buren Educational Support Team for a 1% increase as presented. There was discussion. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Van Buren Board of Education approve the Letter of Agreement for a 1% increase to the 2014-2015 salary schedule for the Van Buren Educational Support Team as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Sherry Frazier stated that she would be abstaining from the vote due to conflict of interest due to a familial relationship.

Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources, presented a recommendation to the Board that they approve the Letter of Agreement between Van Buren Public Schools and the Van Buren Administrators and Supervisors Association for a 1% increase as presented. There was discussion. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Board of Education approve the Letter of Agreement for a 1% increase to the 2014-2015 salary schedule for the Van Buren Administrators and Supervisors Association as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources, presented a recommendation to the Board that they approve the Letter of Agreement between Van Buren Public Schools and the Van Buren Association of Educational Secretaries for a 1% increase as presented. There was discussion. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Alison Bennett, that the Van Buren Board of Education approve the Letter of Agreement for a 1% increase to the 2014-2015 salary schedule for the Van Buren Association of Educational Secretaries as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Shareen Barker, Director of Finance, presented a recommendation to the Board for the purchase of two additional special education buses. There was discussion. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of two (2) special needs buses from Hoekstra from the MSBO/MAPT Bus Purchase Program in the amount of \$157,676 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Questions and Comments from the Audience (Non-Agenda Items): None

Other Items from the Board:

Mr. Mikulski noted that the Board members had received an invitation to the Distinguished Graduate and National Honor Society Induction, Tuesday, April 28 at Auditorium

Mrs. Frazier invited those present to National Library Day, Saturday, April 18, Art Show in Commons this Saturday and noted that Belleville Students would be involved. She also mentioned the Van Buren Public Schools Job Fair on Wednesday, April 15 for teachers at BHS Commons.

Mrs. Owen informed those present that May 22 will be the VBEF Tiger Game fund raiser, \$20 each. 1,000 tickets available; that the Frozen Leprechaun made \$7,300 for Van Buren Education Foundation. There will be a Detroit Tiger Alumni game at BHS, May 15, which will also host the Drive One for your school. She noted that there would be more details to follow. Finally she stated that those students went to France, Spain had returned with a great experience.

Superintendent Van Tassel reminded those present that the Sinking Fund renewal vote is May 5 and noted concern with the outcome, as the other proposition on the ballot was receiving having negative press. He stated that the District has done informational mailings, visits and videos on the District Website to inform the public for what this sinking fund renewal would be used.

Mrs. Frazier stated that Southwest Democratic club is hosting an informational meeting on Proposition 1 and that she would remind everyone at that meeting about the importance of the sinking fund renewal.

Mrs. Frazier asked for information on how student cell phone usage was addressed at Belleville High School. She noted she had spoken with a parent and understood that the phones are expensive and students may not want to give them up to a teacher if asked. She asked if there was a policy and if it was consistently administered?

Next Meeting:

Work Study: Update on Fire Claim process and Diane Kullis will speak about 31A and Title funding update and looking at moving forward.

Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Kevin English, that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 8:10 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Pam Johnson,
Recording Secretary

Kevin English
Secretary, Board of Education