

Van Buren Board of Education
Minutes of the Board of Education
REGULAR MEETING
March 16, 2015

President Mikulski called the Regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Mikulski thanked Principal Abel and staff of Edgemont 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.

President Mikulski stated that there was a need to go into Executive Session, Pursuant to Sections 8(a) and 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Board adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session at 7:04 pm. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Board returned to regular session at 7:55 pm. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach to return to open session.

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

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Agenda Items – Question raised as to the specific nature of executive session, 8 a and 8 c. President Mikulski explained that the two items were the Superintendent's evaluation and negotiations, respectively.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Martha Toth, to approve the consent agenda: Regular minutes from the February 9, 2015 Regular Board Meeting, February 9, 2015 Executive Session Minutes, February 11 Special Board Meeting Minutes, Check Register for the month of February, Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Terminations: Kristian Sefcik, McBride Teacher, (17 years) after one year leave of absence, resigned effective June 30, 2015; Scott Hunwick, McBride Teacher (10 years) after one year leave of absence, resigned effective March 9, 2015; Laura Lintner, BHS Teacher (10 years) resigned to take an administrative position, effective February 27, 2015; Non-Instructional Staff: Individuals Recommended for Employment: Brandice Dorris, Fringe Benefits Accountant; Qin Zu, Paraprofessional, Edgemont (recalled); Katerina Tyner, Paraprofessional, Edgemont (recalled); Terminations: Angela Ledford, Paraprofessional, Rawsonville (20 years) resigned; Josephine Armstrong, Food Service Worker (16 years) retired; Harvey Chesney, Tech Specialist (14 years) resigned; Diane Spivey, Food Service Manager (20 years) deceased; and a Field Trip for the Business Professional Association to Grand Rapids. Motion carried unanimously.

Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources presented a recommendation that the Board approve the hiring of Melissa Lloyd as the 2015 – 2016 Principal for Owen Intermediate School. Ms. Langford-Green gave a synopsis of the interview process and Ms. Lloyd's qualifications. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kevin English, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve and grant a one year contract as Principal of Owen Intermediate School for the 2015-2016 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a presentation by Belleville High School Principal and staff on student achievement and responses to intervention by the High School staff for the 2015 – 2016 school year. This was information only.

Shareen Barker, Director of Finance presented the 2014 – 2015 Budget Amendment. Ms. Barker gave a PowerPoint presentation on the necessary changes being recommended. There was discussion.

Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Alison Bennett, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the 2014-15 Budget Amendment Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Several Board members commended Mr. Barker for her ability to quickly acclimate with the Department and the budget.

The final Administrative Item was the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract Renewal recommendation. President Mikulski stated that annual obligation is to evaluate our one employee, the Superintendent. Mr. English passed out the evaluation document and read excerpts from it. The Board of Education gave the Superintendent a Highly Effective rating.

Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Martha Toth, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the summary statement of the Superintendent's performance and an extension of the Superintendent's contract for one year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Questions and Comments from the Audience (Non-Agenda Items): A parent shared her concern about bullying at Owen. President Mikulski indicated that the Superintendent's Office would look into the concern.

Other Items from the Board:

Ms. Toth indicated she would give the Legislative Update at Work Study

President Mikulski read a letter of thanks from J. Strzalkowski

The Soup Project with New Tech Students and the Belleville DDA was mentioned as being successful

Ms. Frazier stated that the Symphony Band performed at Carnegie Hall and this will be highlights of the students' lives.

Reminder that the BHS play, Little Shop of Horrors will be performed this weekend, and that the Education Foundation will be having a Mexican Dinner before performances.

Mr. Van Tassel stated that at the upcoming Work Study, the topics would be Read 180 Update, what is happening with M-Step, and a review of the Hiring Process.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kevin English, that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin English
Secretary, Board of Education

Pam Johnson,
Recording Secretary