

Van Buren Board of Education
Minutes of the Board of Education
REGULAR and ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS
January 12, 2015

The Organizational and Regular meetings of the Board of Education were held at the Belleville High School Commons on January 12, 2015. Superintendent Michael Van Tassel called the Organizational meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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, and Diane Kullis, Director of Instruction.

Judge David Parrott gave the Constitutional Oath of Office to new Board Members, Alison Bennett, Kevin English and Sherry Frazier. Judge Parrott thanked the Board Members for their service and allowing him to preside over the Oath of Office.

Motion by Kevin English, supported by Sherry Frazier, to appoint Michael Van Tassel, Superintendent, as temporary Presiding Officer until the new President is elected. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Van Tassel passed out ballots to each Board Member for each office upon which was to be voted. He then stated that he would accept nominations for the Office of President. Sherry Frazier nominated Brent Mikulski for President. Brent Mikulski was elected as President of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education for the 2015 year by a unanimous vote.

Motion by Kathy Kovach, to nominate, Martha Toth as Vice President of the Board of Education for the 2015 year. Martha Toth was elected as Vice-President of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education for the 2015 year by a unanimous vote.

Motion by Kelly Owen, to nominate Kevin English as Secretary of the Board of Education for the 2015 year. Kevin English was elected as Secretary of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education for the 2015 year by a unanimous vote.

Motion by Martha Toth, to nominate Kathy Kovach as Treasurer of the Board of Education for the 2015 year. Kathy Kovach was elected as Treasurer of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education for the 2015 year by a unanimous vote.

President Mikulski explained the recommended regular meeting and work study session schedule presented. Motion by Kevin English, supported by Kelly Owen, that the regular meetings for the 2015 year be held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at various school locations and the Work Study Sessions will be held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Van Buren Public Schools Administration Building Board Office. It was noted that on either of these Mondays, if there is a conflict, another date will be selected. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kelly Owen, to approve the Resolution to establish PNC Bank as the legal depository for school funds for the 2015 year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Sherry Frazier, to approve the Resolution to authorize investments for the 2015 year. Motion carried unanimously.

President Mikulski noted that the Board would move directly into the Regular Meeting.

President Mikulski called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Superintendent Van Tassel stepped to the podium and stated the he wanted to take the time to acknowledge and recognize each Board Member for the job they do for the School District. He stated that each member of the Board cares deeply for the students in this community and he wanted to say thank you. Superintendent Van Tassel then handed out Certificates of Appreciation to each member of the Board.

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

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 – None.

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

Shonta Langford-Green presented a recommendation for the new Director of Finance, Shareen Barker. Ms. Barker has significant experience in working with school districts in the capacity of Director of Finance. Motion by Kelly Owen, supported by Sherry Frazier, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve and grant a contract to Shareen Barker through June 30, 2016, as Director of Finance effective January 26, 2015.

Eric Dumont of Plant Moran CRESA presented to the Board information on their previous approval of utilizing sinking fund dollars to replace the boilers at both Owen and McBride. He stated that a recommendation for the Architectural/Engineering Design for the boiler replacement be awarded to Peter Basso Associates in an amount of \$23,650. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Martha Toth, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the 2015 Sinking Fund Upgrade for the Boiler Replacement for Owen and McBride Architectural/Engineering Design to Peter Basso Associates in the amount of \$23,650 from 2015 sinking funds as presented. There was discussion. Motion was carried unanimously.

James Williams, Plant Operations Director informed the Board of the need to replace two maintenance vans due to the loss of vehicles from the November Bus Garage fire. The decision was made to buy two new vans, as the 2011 vans destroyed had been well maintained and had low miles. There was discussion. This was information only.

John Leroy, Principal of McBride Middle School and teacher Tracey Delfuocco presented information on the request for English Language Arts Curriculum at the McBride Middle School. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approve the 7th and 8th Grade English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum and curriculum materials not to exceed \$35,000 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Martha Toth presented the 2nd reading of Board policy updates for adoption. She reviewed each policy change for the Board members. It was noted that once again, most of these changes are dictated by law. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kelly Owen, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education adopts the Board Policy Updates as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Shonta Langford-Green made her annual presentation to the Board on the Student Directory Information and Family Rights to Privacy/Freedom of Information and reviewed the requirements of the District in meeting these guidelines. This was for information only.

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

Other Items from the Board:

Ms. Toth: Legislative Update: Most of items of concern in lame duck session did not go through. A more conservative legislative process will be coming. There are concerns about what Governor plans to do with schools that are not doing well. It was announced that a three (3) year contract replacing ACT with SAT was awarded and will begin in 2016. Since there have been three different tests in three years it raises concerns as to how schools will use assessment to judge progress.

Ms. Frazier: Stated that recently Belleville High School Students were in a Regional CTE Conference competition. Mrs. Frazier was a judge. She noted that it was a wonderful experience.

Agenda items for next board meeting:

None noted.

President Mikulski reminded the Board that there will be a Work Study Session on January 26.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Martha Toth, move to executive session for the purpose of Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act and that the regular meeting be adjourned. Regular meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. There was a roll call vote. It was carried unanimously.

The full Board of Education returned to regular session at 8:42 pm without taking action while in Executive Session. The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Pam Johnson,
Recording Secretary

Kevin English
Secretary, Board of Education