

**VASSAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

**Date: February 10, 2014**

**Time: 6:30 P.M.**

**Place: High School Media Center**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Mike Kennard at 6:30 P.M.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Kennard , Kirk Van Wormer, Russ Hubbard, Ben Guile  
Jeff Fackler, Jill Baase, Randy Middlin

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palmer, Deb Dewey, Phil Marcy

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: ADDITION OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

1. MOTION by Jeff Fackler, support by Russ Hubbard to approve agenda by moving Item S #2 to Item L #1.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

**E. BOARD RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCES:**

**F. SPOTLIGHT OF MONTH:**

**G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CORRECTIONS:**

1. MOTION by Randy Middlin, support by Ben Guile to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2014 Organizational and Regular Meetings as presented.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

**H. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS AND/OR COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. General Ledger Summary Comparison Reports-General Fund and Food Service: No comments.
2. Internal Fund Balance Sheet- Mr. Van Wormer: All the clubs and sports are doing well with their fundraisers.
3. RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Russ Hubbard to approve the payroll expenses in the amount of \$737,858.40.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to approve the General Fund expenses in the amount of \$141,929.77.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

Mr. Van Wormer: When an employee is absent for more than 1 day do we require a slip from the doctor? Mr. Palmer: No, but if they are out for 3 days we require one. Also if they are going to be out for 5 or more days we require them to complete FMLA paperwork.

4. Committee Reports – NA

**I. FINANCIAL ISSUES:**

1. Mr. Palmer: The amended budget has a projected budget deficit of \$438,970 with an ending fund balance of \$220,746. He reviewed the Proposed Governor's budget for 2014-2015. It contains a state aid increase of \$111 per pupil but contains 2 serious inclusions. Section 102 – Potential Financial Stress Districts which does not have a clear cut definition would require districts to close out each month as if it were a year end audit and forward documents to the Department of the Treasury. Due to the enormous time burden this would put on local districts, audit firms or outside companies need to be hired to submit the paperwork. No funding for this extra expense is included in the Governor's proposal. There are several triggers that are being looked at by the Department

of the Treasury that would apply to our district: Fund balance less than 10% of expenses, declining enrollment of 5% for consecutive years. The other serious inclusion in the Governor's proposal is the \$10 million dollars in funding for the Dissolution of School Districts. He is aiming for more schools to close. Mr. Middlin: I spent the weekend going over the budget trying to find something to help us out. Some of our new programs needed explaining as they are covered by grants. (Grants are no longer included under one "department" or function code within the budget. MDE requires the expenses to be allocated under several different function codes throughout the budget which makes it look like we have added new programming, which we haven't.) There is no wiggle room without drastic changes. There are some realities coming that are going to be very difficult. We are looking at over \$400,000 deficit to clear. Mr. Palmer: Plus we also have to include loss due to declining enrollment which the minimum projected it 50. In March we will look at the Consolidated Plan (shared services) with Millington Community School and moving Kindergarten and Young 5's to Central School. That would leave only preschool in Townsend North. We have recently found out that we can use these funds to cover building and utility expenses for a savings to the district. Mr. Middlin: I received a letter from the Kindergarten teachers regarding the move. Mr. Palmer: Mr. Kennard and I sat down last Friday with them. We listened to their concerns. They couldn't argue with the move as it takes us out of being a Focus school plus saves on utility costs. Mr. Middlin: As for performance based are the scores used for funding from 2 years ago? Mrs. Dewey: Yes. Mr. Middlin: That could be a potential loss of revenue if scores are down. The board members asked questions of Mrs. Peplinski about the amended budget. They liked the format as it was done as an Excel spreadsheet with more details added such as staffing and function code explanations. Postage budgets and special payouts were discussed.

MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to adopt the Amended General Fund budget resolution as read.

Roll Call:

Hubbard – yes

Guile – yes

Kennard – yes

Van Wormer – yes

Fackler – yes

Baase – yes

Middlin – yes

MOTION CARRIED (7 yes, 0 no)

**J. CURRICULUM ISSUES:**

**K. BY-LAWS AND POLICY ISSUES:**

**L. PERSONNEL ISSUES:**

1. Mr. Palmer: The contracts you are being handed are all the non-union contracts. The only change is adding a Transportation Supervisor role to Steve Wilkinson upping his wages a little over \$5,000. Mr. Middlin: Are we moving too fast? Mr. Guile indicated he would like more time to review in all fairness if cuts are to be made. Mr. Middlin: I would like more time to look at them. Mrs. Baase: Last year we didn't have time to make any changes. Mr. Guile: We're getting ready to cut programs so we need to look at these contracts. When are we negotiating contracts? Mr. Palmer: The teachers are not interested yet. Mrs. Baase: There are thing in here we want to trim. More discussion went on between the board members as they discussed the review process.

MOTION by Randy Middlin, support by Ben Guile hold a Special Board Meeting on Monday, February 24, 2014 to review the non-union personnel contracts.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

**M. STUDENT ISSUES:**

**N. OPERATIONAL ISSUES:**

**O. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 20 attendees.**

- Suzy Bragg, 142 Lynn St., Vassar, MI: Could the school board review what happens at Townsend North School cafeteria with lunch? The students are made to eat a certain amount of food before going to recess. I prefer that my child not be made to eat anything. It happens to other children. No adult should be allowed to make a child eat like that. There is no state law specifying how much a child should eat. Mr. Middlin: Is it a policy? Mrs. Dewey: It is not a policy. Mr. Palmer: Kids get in a hurry to go to recess. So they dump their tray. Then parents complained to me that their kids were hungry. Mr. Middlin: I used to make kids wait in the cafeteria 15 minutes. Mr. Fackler: I think it's a difficult balance. It would seem a time frame would be the way to go. Mrs. Dewey: They get 20 minutes to eat. Mr. Fackler: What time to go outside? Mrs. Dewey: Everybody goes out at the same time. I ask that they eat 1 item from their tray.
- Onna Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd., Vassar, MI: It was an exciting meeting tonight. You can only cut a budget so low. So you need to increase income. Maybe use the land at Central School for a garden. Students can sell the vegetables to generate income. You have rooms and halls to rent out at not an outlandish price. Ask the teachers. The contracts you were discussing. I don't understand why you would have a 3 year contract for a superintendent. I don't understand rollover. If I want to see contracts, I'd have to FOIA them but the board, you have the right to see them. It is difficult to have a special meeting. If they want to stay, they will be open to negotiate a price.

**P. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS:**

1. Still in the black for Latchkey. It is a growing program. We are 2/3 of the way through the year. We are waiting to see what happens will with Senate and House versions of the budget. In the past there was no dickering but this year it might be improved.

**Q. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Marcy: Smarter balance testing for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade only as a pilot for the new MEAP in March. ELA and Math subjects will be 3-4 hours each on the computer. There are no scores or feedback. Mr. Fackler: No feedback, why test? Mrs. Dewey: These will test that our computers will work; how students handle the questions, help district plan and prepare for the new test. Mr. Marcy: Annual Rock & Read will be Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Dewey: The ACT & MME are coming to the High School March 4-6. ACT part of the testing is required by legislature. Smarter balance testing all buildings have a grade level to try the testing. For Townsend North School the Fairy Tale Ball will be held on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**R. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**S. CLOSED SESSION:**

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Kirk Van Wormer to go into closed session at 7:44pm.  
Roll Call:  
Hubbard – yes                      Guile – yes                      Kennard – yes                      Van Wormer – yes  
Fackler – yes                      Baase – yes                      Middlin – yes  
MOTION CARRIED (7 yes, 0 no)
2. MOTION to return to open session at 8:49pm.  
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)
3. No action taken.

**T. DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- February 17 – Presidents Day – No School
- February 26 – Half day for students; Teacher professional development in the p.m.
- March 4 – ACT testing – Only 11<sup>th</sup> grade report to school

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**U. NEXT REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING:**

February 26 –Special Meeting in the High School Media Center @ 6:30pm

March 10 – Regular Meeting in the High School Media Center @ 6:30pm

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

1. MOTION by Ben Guile, support by Russ Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 9:28pm.

MOTION CARRIED

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Secretary)