

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

**Date: March 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, Paul Wojno, Deb Dewey, Phil Marcy, Jason Kiss

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jeff Fackler to approve agenda by adding Item F # 2 and to include the minutes from the March 4, 2014 Special Meeting in Item G # 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: Fundraisers must be doing good. The balances in the accounts are good.
3. RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Ben Guile to approve the payroll expenses in the amount of \$781,628.26.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Ben Guile to approve the General Fund expenses in the amount of \$144,345.38.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

Mr. Van Wormer: The bus fuel price has gone up like crazy.

4. Committee Reports – NA

**I. FINANCIAL ISSUES:**

1. Mr. Palmer: The audience has a copy of the Shared Service Plan available. Mr. Palmer ran through the Plan section by section. Under the Transportation section questions regarding the breakout of secretary and mechanic/supervisor wage/benefit amounts were asked and answered. Mr. Palmer explained how the parts of the shared services plan are linked. One section is contingent on another in order to happen. In order to do Vassar's Technology portion, Millington needed to free up their payroll person. To free up their payroll person, ISD will do their payroll. This frees up this individual to be available to do our Technology portion. Also as a part of the plan the ISD will do Vassar's payroll. Mr. Hubbard: Will we have to pay unemployment? Mr. Palmer: We do not know. Mr. Palmer reviewed the Counseling portion. Mr. Van Wormer: Who does it? Mr. Palmer: Kyle Boros. Right now it is just to do scheduling. Mr. Atkins: I have 2 questions. 1-What is a stipend?

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2-Do they get paid mileage? Mr. Palmer: A stipend is an agreement in which an employee gets paid a certain amount for doing something extra. Mr. Atkins: Where do we get the money for stipends? Mr. Palmer: it will come from the savings. It is completely separate from the contracts. Audience Member: Do they realize they can claim the mileage on their taxes? Mr. Palmer: It is up to the individual if they choose to turn it in. Mr. Bacon: If this was a task say 50/50 and now a role, why are we paying extra? Mr. Fackler: A person under a contract is to get \$X for his job. Now I want him to volunteer outside his contract so we offer a stipend to pay from the savings. Discussion continued between board members. Mrs. Baase: How did the amount for the stipends come about? Mr. Palmer: I went to each person and asked. Discussion regarding the break out of time and payment of the stipends continued. Mrs. Baase: Are the stipends above and beyond the contract? Mr. Palmer: It is money from Millington to pay the stipends. Mr. Van Wormer: What you are doing is taking executive positions and sharing with another district. Millington approached Tom. Tom and John came up with a pretty ingenious idea. We know we are going to be broke next year. If we don't do this, we'll be broke. We lose 50 children a year. We look for ways to try to save money. We are trying to do this for next school year. We'll see what happens. It is a trial. Mr. Palmer: When we moved 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades to Central it seemed to go quite well. No problems were brought to our attention. The Central School Improvement Team created 3 plans for each scenario given by Administration. Mrs. Vogl reviewed the plan. Mr. Middlin: Why are we moving Young 5's? Mr. Dewey: They require a secretary, a principal; we would only be able to use part of the savings of the building costs; and we would have to continue as a Focus School. Mr. Middlin: That's a huge undertaking. Mrs. Baase: How many preschool classes will stay? Mr. Palmer: 3. Mr. Fackler: Isn't this our smallest Kindergarten class yet? Mr. Palmer: Yes. Mr. Bacon: I understand they are setting Phil up for a stipend. What about Linda? Mrs. Inglis: I think we are doing ok. When you bring Kindergarten over, I don't know how you want me to take care of all this. I don't feel I'll be able to give you the best I can be. Mr. Palmer: Phil has asked for us to look into help. By doing this we go from 18 paras to 12-15. We know we will be losing 3 who are 1 year only. It all really depends on the size of the Kindergarten class. We do have the band room available most of the time. We may eliminate 5<sup>th</sup> grade band & have recorder classes as is done in other districts. Our data shows enrollment is going down. We are trying to save as many jobs as we can. The 14-15 budget plan requires 3 teachers less. If we get retirements, this changes the layoff plan. This plan could happen. Mrs. Vogl discussed the other plan. Mr. Fackler: Why are we doing stipends this year? Mr. Palmer: Mr. Kiss is the lowest paid in the county so he got a small bump. Mr. Marcy has assumed more and more. Mrs. Inglis: The kids are needier now. At the end of the day the kids don't know where they are supposed to go. Mr. Middlin: There will be no secretary or principal at Townsend North. Mr. Palmer: Paula will be moved where there is need in the district. Mr. Middlin: There will be nobody at the front door. Mr. Fackler: Can the door release be moved to the classrooms? Mr. Palmer: It already is. Mrs. Walker: Kindergarten hasn't seen these plans. She voiced concerns she and the other Kindergarten teachers have. Mr. Palmer: Under the 2014-2015 budget proposal is an increase to the General Fund of \$215,009. But instead discussion went back to the moving of Kindergarten to Central School. Mr. Palmer: Back to the 2014-2015 budget proposal we are projecting a fund balance of \$435,755. We have budgeted a 50 student decline and \$111 per pupil increase in foundation. There is a push to consolidate other services within the state aid to give districts even more money per pupil. The Governor is against this. We added the \$199,000 shared services from Millington. He then read the memo and outcome attached to the budget documents the board members received in their packets. Our goal has to be to put money back in the bank. Mr. Fackler: Our goal is to have 10%. Mr. Palmer: Yes and avoid monthly audits. If we put money back in the bank, they should leave us alone. Mr. Fackler: It includes the increase from the shared services and the state aid increase? Mr. Palmer: Correct. Mr. Middlin: Is everything built in? Mr. Palmer: Yes. More discussion continued regarding stipends. Mr. Bacon: What about this year no stipends and see what you put into it?

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Mr. Van Wormer: I don't know if everybody understands this. Millington and Vassar have 1 superintendent for \$100,000 each. That's \$50,000 each. The stipends come in with more responsibilities. Mr. Guile: We've got an opportunity to save money. It's an outside of the box solution. A segment of employees are getting raises and a segment is losing jobs. Mr. Middlin: I am concerned about the safety and welfare of the kids next door. Somebody needs to be at that door. How are we as a board addressing the problems we are creating? That's what I'd like to see. Mr. Hubbard: I agree with Mr. Middlin. We've got to keep the doors open. If we pull this off, get the savings and keep the doors open, I don't see any other options. Mr. Guile started a motion then pulled it. Mr. Hennessy, Millington Community Schools Board Member: We would like to move forward. We voted 7-0 to approve this Plan 10 days ago. If the savings is not here, then it hits the classroom. Mr. Kennard: The board has to careful that we are not micro managing. We are going into a gray area. Mr. Middlin: I understand what you are saying but we need to have as much discussion as possible.

MOTION by Jill Baase, support by Randy Middlin to approve the Shared Services Plan with Millington Community Schools contingent on the mutual agreement of stipends with the administration.

Roll Call:

Hubbard – yes	Guile – yes	Kennard – yes	Van Wormer – yes
Fackler – yes	Baase – yes	Middlin – yes	

MOTION CARRIED (7 yes, 0 no)

The board agreed to meet with administration in one week.

2. MOTION by Jeff Fackler, support by Kirk Van Wormer to accept the 2014-2015 Proposed 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)

3. MOTION by Jeff Fackler, support by Randy Middlin to accept the Best Practice 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:**

1. Mrs. Dewey reviewed the MEAP scores. Mr. Guile: Have we cut to the point where the job can't be done right? Mrs. Dewey: Our teachers are changing to core standards but testing is done on the old standards. Our socio economic conditions as far as free/reduced has risen significantly. These students learn slower. Mr. Fackler: Everybody takes the same test? Mrs. Dewey: Yes, the students with disabilities are allowed more time. This is the last year for MEAP scores. Next year testing will be done online from the State of Michigan. Smarter Balance testing is Common Core. We are doing a pilot this spring.

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

**L. PERSONNEL ISSUES:**

**M. STUDENT ISSUES:**

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**N. OPERATIONAL ISSUES:**

**O. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 78 attendees.**

- Mary Foess, 5845 Waterman Rd., Vassar, MI: No comment.
- Linda Inglis, 6160 Hess Rd., Vassar, MI: No comment.
- Gary King: 5231 Hanes Rd., Vassar, MI: No comment.
- Steve Franko, 635 Athletic St., Vassar, MI: No comment.
- Janelle Birsching, 1034 Athletic St., Vassar, MI: At what point do you decide you have enough services to consolidate? Mr. Palmer: The two boards would have to put it to a ballot issue. We would have to be at a point where we can't maintain facilities or class sizes. The key is what is the State going to do with revenues.

**P. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS:**

1. April 21<sup>st</sup> is the Monday after Easter and the district is closed. Does the board still want to hold a regular meeting that night? The board agreed they would still hold the regular meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
2. March 19<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Childs is coming. She would like to meet with at least a couple of board members. Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Kennard and Mr. Guile said they would attend.
3. By now you have heard about the bus situation. We had a bus blow a motor. It will cost \$13,000 to repair. We have an aging bus fleet that has issues. We will need to look at a bond issue.
4. The May election is for an 18 mill non-homestead bond renewal.

**Q. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Wojno: No comment.
- Mr. Kiss: Athletic accomplishments will be brought to the board at next month's meeting.
- Mrs. Dewey: No comment.
- Mr. Marcy: Rock & Read will be Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**R. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Fackler: I wasn't a fan of the latchkey program. Now it has a \$2,700 profit. Phenomenal!

**S. CLOSED SESSION:**

**T. DATES TO REMEMBER:**

March 19 – Half Day for Students; Teachers Professional Development in pm  
March 28 & 29 – High School Spring Play 7:30pm  
April 3 – Parent Teachers Conferences 4-8:00pm  
April 4 through 13 – Spring Break  
April 18 – Good Friday; District is closed.  
April 21 – District is closed. BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD.

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

April 21 – Regular Meeting in the High School Media Center @ 6:30pm

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Ben Guile to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm.

MOTION CARRIED

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