

VASSAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Special Meeting of the Board of Education

Date: March 24, 2014

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: High School Auditorium

A. CALL TO ORDER:

1. The special 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, Ben Guile, Kirk Van Wormer, Russ Hubbard, Jeff Fackler,
Jill Baase, Randy Middlin

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palmer

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 as is.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

E. FINANCIAL ISSUES:

1. Mr. Palmer informed the Board that counseling was removed from the plan at the request of the teachers' union. The teachers' union does not want to cross district lines to use personnel. Mr. Middlin spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee who met last Monday with administrators. We met with administrators to discuss in detail their future plans and where the stipend figures came from. Mr. Palmer would be responsible for approximately 2,500 students. Mr. Wojno will have his numbers doubling with a Vassar assistant principal and one from Millington. Mrs. Dewey will not be receiving any money further than she received in the prior year (\$5,000 only). We looked at next year and their responsibilities. The District is caught between a rock and a hard place. We want to keep our doors open. If we don't change, it's a \$120,000 deficit for next year and we'll have a problem. People are concerned about those being paid stipends. But with this we are bringing in over \$200,000 in savings. We have to cut programming otherwise. That was the gist of what was discussed. Those receiving stipends will be working more than 40 hours per week. How many more? We don't know. The contract and addendums are for 1 year only. After that it will end unless the boards decide to continue the program. If we do not continue, everything stops, no salaries etc. We've listened to you. Mr. Van Wormer: We brought up the number of students Mr. Palmer and Mr. Wojno would be looking at. We compared it to other school districts with 2,500 pupils and compared to what the plan is offering. This is new and we are on the cutting edge. We have a good neighbor in Millington. Mr. Hubbard: I agree totally with what's been said. There is nowhere to go without cutting staff to get this money and help out the district. Mr. Palmer: The plan was approved at last meeting and it included the moving of Kindergarten to Central School. Mr. Kennard: I'd like to thank the Finance Committee for their time. Mr. Fackler: The Cooperative agreement specifically says time logs are not expected to be kept. Time worked by the Superintendent is expected to be more than 40 hours per week. When staff retire, in business the amount is based on the last 3 years or so. Will the District be responsible for additional retirement funds by the addition of the stipends? Mr. Palmer: No.

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jeff Fackler to approve Dual Superintendency contract and addendums to administrator contracts for the 2014-2015 school year.

Roll Call:

Baase – No

Guile – No

Kennard - Yes

Van Wormer - Yes

Fackler – Yes

Hubbard – Yes

Middlin – Yes

MOTION CARRIED (5 Yes, 2 No)

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Mr. Palmer: Which 3 will sit on the Council? Mr. Kennard, Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Guile.

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 36 attendees.

- o Lou Smallwood, 1003 Day Road, Vassar, MI 48768: When businesses have financial difficulties they must look at revenues and expenses. He has not heard the board address the income side. Why is there declining enrollment? Are they doing a study of declining enrollment?
- o Michael Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd., Vassar, MI 48768: Do not forget about the education you give the students. Common Core is being pushed on schools. He is concerned about school districts losing their autonomy. Education is not a one size fits all.
- o Dan Atkins, 133 N Cass Ave., Vassar, MI 48768: We're sharing 2 administrators. Will 1 be there at all times? Mr. Palmer: Barring any major incidence.
- o Brenda DuRussel, 5230 Hess Rd., Vassar, MI 48768: We've had to make a lot of accommodations by adding the 1st and 2nd grade. The 1st grade take a lot of time to eat. Are we getting help in the kitchen to get the kids through?
- o David Atkins, 5702 Waterman Rd., Vassar, MI 48768: Why did we roll over contracts? We have no money, facilities in need of repairs, etc. Mr. Secretary you aren't holding your Superintendent accountable. Anyone from Millington ask your questions and get your answers.
- o Onna Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd., Vassar, MI 48768: What is the purpose of a special meeting? It was a Finance Committee meeting. It is a budget workshop. You are 1 member short of having a full board. This is done to keep the public out. The persons responsible is the board. Why are we taking care of the top first? We are shoving Kindergarten to another building. The teachers' contract should be a priority. You need to look at what has to be done first. They are 2 part time jobs.
- o Robert McKay, 995 W Huron Ave., Vassar, MI 48768: The wrong metric has been used in determining stipends. The number of students should not be used. You should have looked at the amount of administrator oversight and "what have you done for me lately".

G. ADJOURNMENT:

1. MOTION by Jeff Fackler, support by Russ Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

DATED: _____ SIGNED: _____
(Secretary)