

VASSAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Date: April 21, 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, Jeff Fackler, Jill Baase,
Randy Middlin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Guile

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palmer, Deb Dewey, Bill Haines

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 (6 yes, Guile absent)

E. BOARD RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCES:

1. Mr. Jensen donated a copy machine to the Transportation Department.

F. SPOTLIGHT OF MONTH:

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CORRECTIONS:

1. MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Russ Hubbard to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2014 Regular Meeting and March 24, 2014 Special Meeting as presented.
MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Guile absent)

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: Some of the clubs have high balances. They are really working hard.
3. RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to approve the payroll expenses in the amount of \$834,626.48.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Guile absent)

RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Russ Hubbard to approve the General Fund expenses in the amount of \$162,748.65.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Guile absent)

Mr. Van Wormer: The fuel cost for the bus fleet is about \$3.39 which has not changed much from last month.

4. Committee Reports – NA

I. FINANCIAL ISSUES:

1. Mr. Palmer: The law now requires a vote by the board as to how they want to handle insurance: hard cap or 80/20. Currently, there is a \$130,000 estimated savings by switching to 80/20. However, a large number of employees would be hard pressed to have any pay check left and may have to seek employment elsewhere. Mr. Fackler: You said it was a one time savings of how much? Mr. Palmer: About \$130,000. Mr. Fackler: What is the downside? Mr. Palmer: For a large group of the employees who receive insurance, their checks would not cover the additional payment for their insurance. They would have to seek employment elsewhere. I'd recommend staying with the hard cap.

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MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jill Baase to stay with the insurance hard cap for 2014-2015.
MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Guile absent)

J. CURRICULUM ISSUES:

K. BY-LAWS AND POLICY ISSUES:

L. PERSONNEL ISSUES:

- 1 Mr. Palmer read the retirement letter from Bill Haines.

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jill Baase to accept the retirement of Bill Haines, with regrets.

MOTION CARRIED (5 yes, 1 no, Guile absent)

M. STUDENT ISSUES:

N. OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. Mr. Palmer explained to the board that by December 2015 the district's phone system must be E-911 compliant. He recommends going through the ISD where we will also see a phone cost savings. The upfront costs are estimated at \$70-80,000 based on districts our size that switched this year. It depends on the number of phones. Mrs. Peplinski: We can reserve \$50,000 from Project Costs (function code 1456 in the budget) which currently is unspent as reserved Fund Balance at the end of the school year. Then we use that same set of accounts for the balance out of the 2014-2015 budget. Mr. Palmer: Bob Frost works for the ISD and heads up their Technology Department as well as does our district's e-rate. When administration met with him, he said he would also look into leasing the equipment which would reduce the upfront costs and spread the payments over 3-4 years. We have not heard back from him yet as to the leasing. Mr. Fackler: What are the benefits? Mr. Palmer: Well, we would be E-911 compliant as required. It would have some effect on our computers/testing and it should mean reduced monthly phone bills. Mr. Middlin: Do we have to decide right now? Mr. Fackler: Can we reduce the number of phones? Mr. Palmer: Bob needs to know if he should proceed. Yes, we will be reducing the number of phones. Townsend North will have fewer.

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jeff Fackler to go ahead with the phone system change to make it E-911 compliant.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Guile absent)

2. Mr. Palmer: Would the board like to continue the Summer Latchkey and Summer Food Service Programs? Mr. Fackler: Did we make a profit last year? Mr. Palmer: Yes, latchkey made a profit. Mrs. Baase: If it made a profit, why not proceed. Where does the money go? Mr. Palmer: Into the General Fund. Mrs. Baase: Are there enough people interested? Mr. Palmer: She's already started a list.

MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Randy Middlin to continue the Summer Latchkey and Summer Food Service Programs.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Guile absent)

O. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 22 attendees.

- o Linda Inglis, 6160 Hess Rd., Vassar, MI: No comment.
- o Mary Foess, 5845 Waterman Rd., Vassar, MI: Presented her concerns on Kindergarten moving to Central School such as no room for growth, playground not age appropriate, and office coverage at Townsend North.

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- Sherry Wilber, 5201 Ash Road, Vassar, MI: Read aloud a letter about the board and administration not making decisions that are in the best interest of the students.
- Onna Clinesmith, 6630 Waterman Rd., Vassar, MI: She would like to see administration/board survey especially the teachers for input. She informed the audience about a November ballot issue having to do with part time legislators.
- David Atkins, 5702 Waterman Rd., Vassar, MI: He made inquiries regarding electronic sign which was paid for by the General Fund, Band Boosters, and Athletic Boosters. Since the board just passed a nice insurance package for administration will the other groups get a fair shake? (Note: The insurance voted on by the board tonight is for all staff who receive medical insurance benefits or approximately 70% of the staff not just administration. It was decided to retain the hard cap as it would have less financial stress on employees.) Why does the district hire retirees?

P. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. The board chose Tuesday, May 13th for administrative reviews starting at 5:30pm.
2. The bus fleet is as old as 1994. We had a motor blow out this year. We need to start updating our fleet or we will have significant problems. We have 2 ways to fund new busses: leasing program or bond issue. A bond issue is not the way to go at this time. However, Mr. Wilkinson has checked into the newer propane busses as they are cheaper to run and the feds will give us \$0.50 for each gallon of fuel burned as part of a green initiative. The lease would be around \$14,000 for 3 years. Would you, the board, like us to look at leasing 2 busses for 2014-2015? The bids are due no later than the last week of May. The company will install the propane tanks to fill the busses for free. Mr. Hubbard: How much is propane? What is the mileage? Mr. Palmer: It is lower mileage plus a device will have to be installed for the clean air initiative. Mr. Wilkinson likes the idea. The bus is quiet. Mrs. Baase: Our mechanic will still maintain them? Mr. Palmer: Yes. Mr. Fackler: If we decide at the end of 3 years we don't want to continue, are we stuck with the tank disposal? Mr. Palmer: No. Al and Steve will be with us at the next meeting. Mr. Middlin: Please give us a report of the current busses, mileage, etc. Mrs. Baase: Is there a mileage limit since it is a lease? Mr. Palmer: I don't know but will find out.
3. The best practice resolution which you approved at the last meeting was approved by MDE. We started receiving the funds this month.
4. Do we have to make up school days? Mr. Palmer will be attending a meeting in Lansing to find out what the current legislation actually means. He hopes to know by Wednesday morning as the new legislation is not clear. (Note: It has been determined that Vassar has to make up only 1 of the 3 unforgiven snow days.)

Q. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

- Mr. Haines: No comment.
- Mrs. Dewey: We did some pilot testing of the Smarter Balance program. We found that our computer system is slow and not up to par.

R. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Baase: Are we sharing the Headstart Program with Millington? Mr. Palmer? I have never heard that before. But I don't think so. Millington is worried about losing their identity. So, no, I don't see that happening. Mrs. Baase: We need more administration at meetings. (Note: Being a holiday and no school in session, administration was not required to attend this meeting.) When you talk about a survey I think it is a great idea. You can figure out the mainstream of the staff. I think there will be a cost. People want to be heard and valued and confidential. Can learn from employees and the public. Mr. Palmer: When done correctly, a survey can give you a feel of the general stream.
- Mr. Middlin: I need clarification about Kindergarten moving to Central School. Next year will there be a saving? Can we be updated on the savings? Mr. Palmer: Yes. Kindergarten round up

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numbers are not coming in full. Around the county they are about 30. Mr. Middlin: What about Focus Schools? What would we have to do to eliminate that? Mrs. Dewey: Close the gap in 3rd Grade. The State chose Townsend North as a Focus School. Mr. Palmer: By moving Kindergarten to Central it removes the issue per the State.

- Mr. Kennard: Who will be attending the Tuscola County Board of Education Dinner? Mr. Kennard, Mr. Van Wormer. The rest will let Mrs. Peplinski know tomorrow morning.
- Mr. Hubbard: Latchkey profits are up to \$4,000. Kudos!!

S. CLOSED SESSION:

T. DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 3 – Prom

May 6 – Senior Class Luncheon

May 9 – 8th Grade Semi-Formal

U. NEXT REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING:

May 12 – Regular Meeting in the High School Media Center @ 6:30pm

May 13 – Special Meeting in the Superintendent’s Office Conference Room @ 5:30pm

V. ADJOURNMENT:

1. MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Russ Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.

MOTION CARRIED

DATED: _____ SIGNED: _____
(Secretary)