

VASSAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Special Meeting of the Board of Education

Date: August 25, 2014

Time: 6:30pm

Place: High School Media Center

- A. Call of order:
 1. The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Mike Kennard at 6:40 pm.

- B. Roll Call:

VPS Members Present: Kennard, Guile, Hubbard, Van Wormer, Baase, Mlddlin
VPS Members Absent: Fackler
Others Present: Mr. Palmer, Mr. Kiss, Dr. Makas, Mrs. Legue, Mr. Marcy

- C. Pledge of Allegiance

- D. Approval of Agenda:
 1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Kirk Van Wormer to approve the agenda as is.
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

- E. Operational Issues:
 1. Mr. Palmer addressed the issue of the High School now being rated as a Priority School and Central School as a Focus School. This is a 4-year program. Mr. Palmer and Mrs. Dewey attended a meeting in Lansing detailing the programs. In 5 weeks the district must provide a plan to the State. The plan must present a new High School Principal. In 2 weeks Mr. Kiss will be presented as the new High School Principal. The changes necessary to proceed will also be provided in 2 weeks at the next board of education meeting on Monday, September 8, 2014. Mr. Kiss will take lead as empowered by the State of Michigan to move forward to get the district off the list.

Why did this happen? When we first found out, we thought Pioneer Work & Learn were included in our figures. When we found out they were not, we thought maybe students were included that should not have been or were we missing some students. What we found out was the State breaks it down by Z score. A Z score is determined by the Michigan Department of Education who figures it on 50% accountability, 25% 4 year trend; 25% 3 year gap. Score range is 4 to -4. Most schools scored 1 to -1. For the High School their accountability and 3 year gap fell in normal ranges, however their 4 year trend was red. This caused the building to become a Priority School. They were a Reward School for 2012-2013. This past year scores dropped thus eliminating the 25% trend score. The problem is with how the state determines this. It is based on different classes over a 4 years. It does not follow the same class for 4 years.

Mr. Kiss discussed the process. It involves **all** staff in order to fix. It is a 4 year process. The building will need to show growth for each of the 4 years. The teachers will need support like that provided by Dr. Makas. The first step is Self-Assessment. They are receiving assistance from groups like the VEA, MDE and MSUEX with help finding resources/sources of help. It is hoped that the self-assessment will be completed in the next week. There are 4 options for the district to consider to fix problem:

- a. Close the school. This is **not** an option for the district.
- b. Close the school but reopen as a charter school. This is **not** an option for the district.
- c. Turnaround: Relieve your administration; eliminate all teachers and rehire 50%.
- d. Transformation: Change everything...Big Ideas...Big Change. The statistics show that in order to be successful 35% of staff must be relieved.

This is an opportunity for meaningful change.

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Upon completion of Mr. Kiss' description of the process, discussion began with the board of education members and the public. The school board will decide who will replace the High School Principal. Mr. Kiss will be the interim. The board packets for September 8th's meeting will contain information that will assist the board in making their decisions. It will remove the politics. Results should be seen by next year end. The plan is due to the state on October 6, 2014.

Mrs. Baase felt that the board should be part of all the decisions and was concerned when she wasn't notified about the administrative meeting. Mr. Kennard was at the meeting. It had to do with turnaround time. Mr. Middlin inquired as to the date the district found out about the Priority School situation. Mr. Palmer said it went public the day of the last school board meeting (August 11th) and was discussed at that meeting. He didn't know the details until he attended the workshop in Lansing.

Board packets will go out on Wednesday, September 3, 2014. This is the 1st year that Central School is a Focus School.

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Ben Guile to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 6:30pm in the High School Media Center for the board to approve the new contracts.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

E. Public Participation:

1. There was participation from the public.

F. Adjournment:

1. MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Ben Guile to adjourn at 7:50 pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

Dated 9-09-14 Signed: Russell Hubbard
(Secretary)