

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

Date: September 3, 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 6:30 pm.
- B. Roll Call:
- Present: Kennard, Guile, Hubbard, Van Wormer, Fackler, Baase, Middlin  
Absent: None  
Others Present: Mr. Palmer, Mr. Kiss, Dr. Makas, Mr. Marcy, Mr. Fabbro
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Approval of Agenda:
1. MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to approve the agenda with the addition of Item # E2.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

- E. Operational Issues:
1. Discussion on Priority Schools: Mr. Palmer informed the board that Mrs. Dewey will be retiring as of September 30, 2014. The board had been given copy of the contracts for their review to be voted either as a group or individually. Contracts were determined using no new money only the funds made available by the retirements of Mr. Wojno and Mrs. Dewey. Mr. Kiss will be the Grades 6-12 Principal who will be responsible for evaluations except those with conflicts whom Mr. Palmer will evaluate. Dr. Makas will be responsible for School Improvement, curriculum development and annual report. Mr. Boros will be responsible for all testing. Mrs. Peplinski will be responsible with Mr. Palmer for Title, CEPI reporting and Homeless Liaison. Mr. Nowotny will be the Support Counselor working mostly for Grades 6-12. We may possibly need a parapro for Central School. Mrs. Vogl will be helping Mr. Marcy at Central School only.
  2. Mr. Marcy on School Improvement: Mr. Marcy wanted to clarify the exchange between Mrs. Moore and Mr. Middlin from the last meeting. During the year we had a Federal Programs Director whose responsibility was to apply for Title funds. You must apply and then a federal liaison makes the determination to approve or deny. The report is a building School Improvement report used in determining how Title funds need to be spent. Last spring the plan was to create 2 Class Size Reduction classrooms to service only Title students. The application was submitted and ongoing. The School Improvement report for which Mr. Marcy is responsible was completed by Mr. Haines as Mr. Marcy was swamped. When the report is completed, it is sent to the Federal Programs Director to review and submit to the feds. In the meantime the application was returned and it matched the School Improvement report. NO FUNDS WERE LOST because of these reports. The designated Title people for Central are the entire staff divided by core subject area. They update the plan. Mr. Marcy has the ability to edit the plan. The Federal Program Director submits.
- F. Personnel Issues:
1. Priority School contracts:
    - a. Robert Nowotny – Support Counselor: Concern was raised regarding the lack of specifically written duties within the contract. Mr. Nowotny will be working 9am-2pm as Support Counselor helping with Middle School students, discipline, and curriculum. There was further discussion regarding Mr. Nowotny's responsibilities.

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Ben Guile to accept Mr. Nowotny's contract with additional wording.

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Ben Guile to withdraw the motion.

- b. Jason Kiss – Grades 6-12 Principal: Concern was expressed regarding the responsibilities of the Grades 6-12 Principal and how the responsibilities may outweigh the time since we are a Priority School. Mr. Kiss would be supported by Mr. Nowotny and Dr. Makas. The salary was discussed by Mr. Palmer and Mr. Kiss. An Interim Middle School Principal was not considered. Concern was raised regarding the physical ability to do what needs to be done to get us out of the Priority School situation. Feelings were expressed that management cut o far back that jobs were not able to be done. It is up to the Board to decide how to proceed:
- 1.) Keep Mr. Kiss as Grades 6-12 Principal.
  - 2.) Negotiate the contract using a committee of 3 board members with Mr. Palmer. Then committee brings results to the board to vote on.
  - 3.) Tell the Superintendent how much \$ to use and have him look for an interim Middle School or new High School Principal.

The community expressed their opinions and thoughts.

MOTION by Jeff Fackler, support by Russ Hubbard to accept Mr. Kiss Grades 6-12 Principal contract as presented.

Roll Call:

Hubbard – Yes                      Guile – Yes              Kennard – Yes      Van Wormer – Yes  
Fackler – Yes                      Baase – No              Middlin – No

MOTION CARRIED (5 Yes, 2 No)

The district needs to achieve a 10% Fund Balance. When we get there, we will be able to hire more staff. Why is Mr. Kiss' contract for 3 years? For his protection basically.

- c. Dr. Makas/Curriculum Connections contract: Dr. Makas will be contracted for 3 days to work on curriculum. Since the professional development was contracted by the ISD, this will help Dr. Makas focus on grades 6-12. It was pointed out that when Dr. Makas was involved scores went up. It will take Dr. Makas' focus and abilities and Mr. Kiss' leadership to get us through this. Dr. Makas' role is to support the classroom and take curriculum off Mr. Kiss' plate. Central Elementary is now a Focus School. Dr. Makas will be working with the Curriculum Council but her main focus will be Grades 6-12.

MOTION by Randy Middlin, support by Kirk Van Wormer to accept the contract with Curriculum Connections as written.

Roll Call:

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

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

- d. Robert Nowotny – Support Counselor: Discussion regarding the job title. It is what he wanted.

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Ben Guile to accept Robert Nowotny's Support Counselor contract with additional wording.

Roll Call:

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

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

- e. Fran Peplinski – Business Manager: Mr. Hubbard asked her to read her list of responsibilities stating how often they were performed. Title responsibilities will be shared with Mr. Palmer. Concern was raised with amount of time required for Homeless Liaison position. Mr. Palmer was asked to approach the Counselor about adding Homeless Liaison to his responsibilities.

MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to accept Fran Peplinski's Business Manager contract as is.

Roll Call:

Hubbard – Yes                      Guile – Yes      Kennard – Yes      Van Wormer – Yes

Fackler – Yes                      Baase – No      Middlin – Yes

MOTION CARRIED (6 Yes, 1 No)

G. Board Member:

1. Mr. Fackler will be attending the 2014 MASB Delegate Assembly, Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI.
2. Mr. Middlin: Did Mr. Palmer's schedule go through the Dual Superintendency Council? No, it will be put on the next agenda. Maybe we should look at having your days/time alternating. Mr. Middlin told Mr. Palmer that he would like to see him step up to the plate and take on more reporting duties. "When I was in the job, I handled the annual report (AER) and many of the other duties we are currently paying individuals for."
3. Mr. Hubbard: The restructuring included hiring a parapro. Where would that person go? The person would be hired to free up Mrs. Vogl for part of the day to help students and to assist Mr. Marcy with reporting. This person would be helping at risk students and at risk funding could be used.
4. Mrs. Baase: Did Mrs. Dewey get the \$15,000 voluntary severance payment? No. Did any teachers? Yes, Mrs. Chelekis and Mr. Leveille. Did we make a choice for the Priority Plan? No. Only 3 board members may be on the committee. They are Mr. Middlin, Mrs. Baase and Mr. Guile.
5. Mr. Fackler: He read to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classroom. The teacher spoke of a parent who volunteered almost daily. An I-Chat form is required before they can volunteer.

H. Public Participation:

1. There was participation from the public.

I. Adjournment:

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jeff Fackler to adjourn at 8:20pm.  
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)