

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

**Date: September 8, 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 6:34 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, Phil Marcy, Jason Kiss, Chuck Fabbro, Steve Wilkinson

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

1. MOTION by Jill Baase, support by Ben Guile to approve agenda with addition of items L2 and L3.  
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

**E. BOARD RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCES:**

**F. SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH:**

**G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CORRECTIONS:**

1. Mr. Middlin asked for a point of clarification regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on 2<sup>nd</sup> page of August 25, 2014 special board meeting minutes. He had intended to ask when "administration" found out that the High School was a Priority School but had said "district". The district found out in mid-July. Also, the date on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the minutes was incorrect. Mrs. Peplinski stated she corrected prior to the meeting.
2. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jeff Fackler to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2014 Regular Meeting and Closed Session, August 25 and September 3, 2014 special meetings.  
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

**H. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS AND/OR COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. General Ledger Summary Reports-General Fund and Food Service: No comments.
2. Internal Fund Balance Sheet: No comments.
3. RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to approve the payroll expenses in the amount of \$707,852.03.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Ben Guile to approve the General Fund expenses in the amount of \$201,676.81.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

4. Committee Reports – NA
5. Mr. Fackler wondered why there was a Tax Anticipation Notes liability account instead of a revenue account. Mrs. Peplinski replied that it is a liability because we owe the money and must pay it back.

**I. FINANCIAL ISSUES:**

1. Mr. Dave Quimby, assisted by Mrs. Corinna Scharff, presented the 2013-2014 audit report. The General Fund fund balance decreased only \$22,872 leaving a fund balance of \$636,844. The Food Service fund balance increased \$3,077 leaving a fund balance of \$105,962. The 2009 Debt Retirement fund balance increased \$10,586 leaving a fund balance of \$349,953. He

reviewed the pupil count history with a 2008-2009 count of 1,729.34 and the 2013-2014 count of 1,264.51 pupils for a loss of 464.83 pupils. That coupled with the Governor's cuts to state aid was a significant loss to the district. GASB 68 requires School Districts that participate in defined benefit pension plans to report in their statement of net position a net pension unfunded liability. For 2014-2015 the district's portion of the liability is to be placed in the financial statements. Bonding agencies are not to take these liabilities into account when determining rates. The Single Audit focused on the food cluster testing which was NSLP, SFSP and commodities. There were no issues. Mr. Fackler asked Mr. Quimby how long he has been auditing and how many districts. Mr. Quimby has been auditing for 32 years and he has 16 districts and ISDs. Mr. Van Wormer noted that our fund balance was not in as worse shape as expected. He inquired if other districts were as close as we are. Mr. Quimby responded that a lot of districts are watching their counts. There are districts worse off. Others are starting to stabilize. Mr. Fackler asked if Mr. Quimby feels we are compliant. Mr. Quimby responded that the district needs to focus on the fund equity. They cut \$500 state aid per pupil without reducing costs a few years ago. If you see the trends, we've seen 6-7 digit reductions. It is a real positive to see only a 5 digit hit. It is a vicious cycle. Mr. Middlin asked for a 2014-2015 budget outlook. Mr. Fackler inquired to our current pupil count. Basically, our count is up so far. But we do not see us losing the full 50 ft's. Mr. Fackler wondered if we knew why students were coming to the district through School of Choice. Mrs. Kukulski informed the board that Grades 11-12 were closed. The reasoning was that these students effect our drop out rate. Mr. Wojno added that these students had too much baggage. If students are achieving during their final couple of years, they tend to stay in their district. Mr. Fackler stated the district should not place so much emphasis on money from Pioneer Work & Learn. K-12 needs to focus its planning/budgeting on its own.

MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Russ Hubbard to accept the 2013-2014 audit report.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

**J. CURRICULUM ISSUES:**

1. The High School has started the process with selecting members for the Planning Team. Members are Mrs. Strauss, Mr. Trisch, Mrs. Kiss, VEA rep. Ann Auernhamer, Mr. Middlin, Mrs. Baase, Mr. Guile, Dr. Makas, and Mr. Kiss. They will be finalizing their selection of a community member tomorrow for a total of 9 members on the team. An MEA rep spoke today. He looked at the website and mission statement. He feels we are on the right path. The first meeting will be this Wednesday. The team will meet for 2 hours each Wednesday and 2.5 hours each Friday. Mr. Middlin asked what their expectations are. The 1<sup>st</sup> year is typically planning. But that leaves us 2 years to implement. The more change you can have in the first year and pull scores back the more lenient the monitoring. Mr. Middlin stated that they might find the scores to go up and down. We are a smaller school district and cannot do what larger school districts can. We are already lean.
2. The Focus Schools team is made up of several committees within Central School (Building School Improvement Committee, Title Committee, and Data Review Committee. 1 teacher per grade level, 1 special education teacher and 1 Title teacher. They are using a Focus Constructional Model. It is county wide on math and funded by the ISD. Base camps: Every day .5 hours reading and .5 hours math base camps. They are looking at those that struggle and those that achieve. An enrichment piece is in there too. They had to re-install NWEA assessment. It is expensive so they did not purchase the licenses. It looks at 2 areas: MAP-measurement of academic progress and measures personal growth. It interplays with Study Island and Compass Learning. It is an individualized testing assessment so we can concentrate on individual growth. Mr. Fackler asked if they encountered IT system problems. For computer instruction 1 hour only 8 of 35 computers could be started. How do you update a 10 year old system in current economically challenged times? Mr. Fackler asked how Central School became a Focus School. The state looks at assessment. If 30%

scores high and 30% scores low, the state looks at the gap between if it is too big. You want 75% at a normal achievement level. We need to bring lower levels up without reducing those that were already high.

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

**L. PERSONNEL ISSUES:**

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Kirk Van Wormer to accept the resignation of paraprofessionals Becky Gorleski and Kelly Hartwick with regrets.  
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)
2. MOTION by Randy Middlin, support by Russ Hubbard to accept the retirement of Deborah Dewey, Federal Programs Director/Assessment/Homeless Liaison.  
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)
3. MOTION by Randy Middlin, support by Russ Hubbard to hire Dianne Stresman as High School Spanish teacher.  
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

**M. STUDENT ISSUES:**

**N. OPERATIONAL ISSUES:**

1. Mr. Fackler stated that at a prior meeting we discussed High School prices. Middle School prices were \$3.00. Per Mrs. Legue the league changed prices to \$4.00.

MOTION by Randy Middlin, support by Russ Hubbard to increase Middle School ticket prices to \$4.00.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

**O. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

1. There was public comment at this meeting.

**P. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS:**

1. Mrs. Kukulski made a good comment about advertising the good things the district does. I'd like to start a district newsletter. A community member is interested. Cost would be incurred via postage for mailing. I'd like to see it done in November and the spring. The district used to put out a calendar once upon a time. I'd wait and do the AER/Calendar for next year. Journalism class could write articles for the newsletter. In the future it would be taken over as a class. He will look at what other districts are doing. Mr. Fackler supported investigating the cost but not funding yet. A large portion of the district does not have computer access. Mrs. Baase agreed that internet in the rural areas is very expensive to have. But it is a great idea.
2. Dana Fabbro and Jodi Bilbee have organized Central Vulcaneers, a fundraising group to raise money for Central School playground equipment. One piece of playground equipment was taken out this week. We do need to get some new equipment. Mr. Hubbard has spoken to Cheryl Childs whose group is interested in putting time and effort into the playground as a thank you for letting them use the district facilities while they are in the area.

**Q. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Marcy: Kindergarten and Young 5's start today. There are 43 students attending Hartley Nature Center. Fundraising drive starts in 2 weeks. Special shout out to the Kindergarten staff who found out Thursday noon that a 3<sup>rd</sup> classroom was necessary.
- Mr. Fabbro: Our numbers are still up. We had 5 high school and 1 GED graduate who is also on the Delta basketball team. Seat Time Waiver program is hoping to consist of a couple of local students. They are considering an outreach program for local drop outs.

**Special/Rescheduled Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

**September 8, 2014**

**Page 4**

- Mr. Kiss: Middle School activity day was a huge success. The High School has been through a lot. Staff is still smiling, talking and picking up the pace. We have a lot of support from inside this room.

**R. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Van Wormer: It is good to hear positive news.
- Mr. Middlin: A lot of you were never involved in a pupil accounting audit. It is a lot of hard work. (The district received a letter from the Tuscola ISD Superintendent thanking staff for the hard work and positive outcome from the State Pupil audit.) Carrie Haubenstricker is a 1<sup>st</sup> year pupil auditor. We do not how awful it is.

**S. CLOSED SESSION:**

**T. DATES TO REMEMBER:**

September 25: Student half day; Teachers PD in pm  
October 1: Pupil Count Day

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

October 13: 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 8:05pm.  
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

DATED 10-13-2014

SIGNED: Russ Hubbard  
(Secretary)