

VASSAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Special Meeting of the Board of Education

Date: September 12, 2013

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Place: High School Auditorium

A. CALL TO ORDER:

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Mike Kennard at 6:05 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Kennard , Roger Bacon, Kirk Van Wormer, Russ Hubbard, Ben Guile,
Jeff Fackler, Jill Baase

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palmer, Phil Marcy, Paul Wojno

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

1. MOTION by Roger Bacon, support by Russ Hubbard to approve agenda as is.
MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

E. STUDENT ISSUES:

1. The handbooks were part of the Monday meeting board packet. They are more in line with current board policies.

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jill Baase to accept the student handbooks as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

F. OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. The board and audience had handouts available to assist in the latchkey discussion. Latchkey costs from the prior year could not be broken out as 2 of the staff members were paid by salary, not an hourly wage. What was shown was the income for the past 2 years. To determine cost potential for the 2014 latchkey program refer to the handout. Staff wages will be run through PCMI for a benefit rate (22%) that is lower than if ran through the school district (33%). The hours per day include 1.5 hours in the morning and 2.5 after school. The morning could be extended to 2 hours provided there are sufficient participants. On the handout personnel costs is based on 4 hours per day and is calculated for each staff member. There is 1 staff member required for 12 students. If the program has 12 students per day the estimated fees would be \$132. The staff cost would be \$45-\$60. So there is potential for income. But on the flipside we can't determine the number of students who will participate in the program. Mr. Palmer asked for a 2 year commitment from the board for the program. But he cannot guarantee the population of the program. We will be able to track the program on a weekly/monthly basis as the fees come in. Mr. Van Wormer asked how many students participated in the program 2nd semester 2013. Mrs. Greenwood replied that there were 83 students enrolled and average attendance was 27 students. Mrs. Baase was concerned about the difficulty incurred determining staffing while trying to keep costs down. Mr. Palmer replied that until we reach a consistent number the staff, typically after school, will stay and if they need more another person will stay or if they need less, then the others will leave. Mrs. Baase asked who determines the wage and rate. Mr. Palmer explained that the district determines the wage but the rate is combined from the wage and the benefit rate charged by PCMI. The benefit rate is less than what the district pays. Mrs. Baase asked what the average wage of a parapro is. Mrs. Peplinski answered \$9.12 - \$10.69. Mr. Fackler asked what additional costs would there be. Mr. Palmer explained that other than the wages there really wouldn't be any additional costs. Any supplies were already in the building. Snacks are run through Food Service's After School Snack Program which are reimbursed the same as lunch and breakfasts. Mr. Van Wormer asked if this is what other districts do. Mr. Palmer said that the other programs are based on the area and its needs. We started last year at \$2.00 per hour which was probably our error. This year we

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would start at \$2.75 per hour. Some districts offer a discount when there is more than one family member participating. Mrs. Baase inquired as to 2 amounts from the handout: Total money still owed to the program and over payment that needs to be refunded to the parents. Mrs. Greenwood responded that some parents paid ahead and when the program ended, had money that needed to be refunded to them. Also DHS paid \$2.50 per hour while the fee charged was \$2.00 per hour; therefore, the district was overpaid by DHS. Also, there are parents who have yet to pay. Mr. Palmer added that parents who do not pay get sent a bill. If they still do not pay, the attorney is contacted and a letter is sent. Any letters from the attorney to the parents would be a cost to the district, one that was not thought of earlier. Mr. Fackler noticed that if we had 13 students income dips to \$40. Mrs. Greenwood responded that it is still a profit. Mr. Fackler stated we are going to deal with this year. Last year was the past. We don't want to kill a program mid-year. Mr. Guile added that that is why Mr. Palmer asked for a 2 year commitment. Mr. Guile addressed Mr. Palmer that last year they were told the district could be laying off staff and cutting program. We aren't going to commit to Art, Woodshop and Band for 2 years. Mr. Palmer responded that they are ingrained programs. Mr. Guile added that the big concern is the board does not want another loss. The program has done some terrific work. Mr. Palmer added that he could not guarantee a profit. Mr. Hubbard added that if the parents paid ahead, then the district could not lose. Mr. Palmer added that it took a semester before to turn things around. At least give it a year this time. Mr. Fackler stated we do have to set a limit. We don't want to go into the hole like last time. Mr. Palmer added that this will build your clientele. An audience member asked the board if they would rather have them take the money elsewhere. Mr. Fackler stated that he is for the program but it must break even. Mr. Palmer stated that if the board could not commit to a year, then he could not recommend the program. An audience member polled the audience and counted 23 potential latchkey participants in the audience alone. That would be a lot of money if they moved to Millington. Mr. Fackler stated we are taking a risk with other people's money. An audience member stated it was a good program with parents paying for it. It is a good thing. Mrs. Baase stated that when you show negatives, we have to be able to stop it. Mr. Van Wormer stated that he was ok with the program. Mr. Fackler asked Mr. Van Wormer if he was ready to take a risk. Mr. Van Wormer responded that yes, he was ready to take a risk. Mr. Dave Atkins asked why the program was dissolved a month ago. Mr. Fackler told him it lost money. Mr. Dave Atkins commented that we only have so much money so if it lost money than close it. Mrs. Seney asked how there are no other costs to consider such as cleaning, electricity, heat. She wanted to make sure that the board had taken everything into consideration. An audience member asked if the janitor worked at night and was paid by the board. The response was yes, he works 2nd shift. Mrs. Seney said that if it took away from her grandchildren in other ways, she doesn't approve of the program. An audience member told that it is harder for her to get to work without the latchkey program. She works the morning bus path and if she doesn't get to work in a timely manner it puts other children at risk. Her daughter wants the program. She will pay more if she needs to. It is worth it. Mr. Fackler stated that as a board they have to have a cutoff point. Mrs. Baase agreed that they should have the right. Mr. Fackler stated that if the program isn't self-sufficient, they have to cut it off. An audience member asked if the board would consider reviewing it prior to cutting it off. Mr. Hubbard stated yes the board could review the program prior to cutting it off. Mr. Fackler stated that at numerous meetings it was said it had to be self-sufficient. The staff should have notified the parents. Mr. Guile stated that we have a shot at staying neutral. A quarterly review is sufficient. Monthly reports would be nice. At the end of each quarter if the program is failing, the parents will be given 3 months' notice prior to the programs closing. Mr. Dave Atkins asked again why the program dissolved. Mrs. Baase stated that the program last year was 3 programs. We are now removing just the one program. Mrs. Parker stated that she is a parapro who makes \$8 per hour. She scrubbed the toilets, took care of sick kids, and did whatever needed to be done to not add to the janitor's job /custodial cost. Mrs. Baase stated that whoever called the news the last night, had better call the news this time and

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tell them they are reinstating the program. Vassar has a lot of programs that other districts have had to get rid of. We are trying to do something positive to benefit the community.

MOTION by Ben Guile, support by Russ Hubbard to reinstate the latchkey program with monthly reports, quarterly reviews and 3 months' notice prior to closing the program.

Roll Call:

Fackler – Yes Guile – yes Bacon – yes Van Wormer – yes Kennard – yes
Hubbard – yes Baase – yes

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

The parents are asked to prepay for the program. An audience member asked about whether the program will continue to be open for spring break, preschool Fridays, snow days and half days. In the interest of good will the board decided to keep it open for those days.

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 23 attendees.

- o Dave Atkins, 5702 Waterman Rd, Vassar. MI: No comment.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jill Baase to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

DATED: _____ SIGNED: _____

(Secretary)