

VASSAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Date: December 8, 2014

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Auditorium

A. CALL TO ORDER:

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Vice President Ben Guile at 6:30 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Guile, Kirk Van Wormer, Russ Hubbard, Jeff Fackler, Jill Baase, Randy Middlin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Kennard

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palmer, Phil Marcy, Jason Kiss, Steve Wilkinson

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 with addition of items F1 and I3.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Kennard absent)

E. BOARD RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCES:

F. SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH:

1. Mrs. Scribner & Mr. Heinrich presented the Middle School Trivia Night fundraiser whose \$1500 proceeds will go to technology.

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CORRECTIONS:

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jill Baase to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2014 Regular Meeting and Closed Session as presented.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Kennard absent)

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: Mr. Van Wormer noticed that with the elimination of the poker fundraisers organizations seem to be picked up by the people.
3. RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Russ Hubbard to approve the payroll expenses in the amount of \$835,244.41.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Kennard absent)

RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to approve the General Fund expenses in the amount of \$167,371.01.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Kennard absent)

4. Committee Reports – NA

I. FINANCIAL ISSUES:

1. Facility Committee Update by Mr. Palmer: The committee recommends that the district try for a May bond issue. This will need to go before the Treasury Department (12/22/2014) to see if we can be allowed to put it on the ballot. **This does not mean it is going for a vote.** It only allows the district the option, if the district chooses to put a bond on the ballot. The good news is that 1 mill over 20 years will generate \$5,045,000. Before we go to the meeting with the Treasury, we need to decide what will be in the bond proposal. Mr. Middlin asked if this was a recommendation from the Facility Committee. Mr. Palmer stated it was. Mr. Middlin asked that if this is for a bond issue, what about a sinking fund? Mr. Palmer replied that the district is in need of busses and technology. These are things a sinking fund cannot pay for. Mr. Van

Wormer inquired as to the yellow highlights in the Construction Needs Assessment. Mr. Palmer said that the yellow highlights are a priority. They must be fixed right now. Mr. Hubbard added that they are boilers, water lines, heaters...a must for the buildings. Approximate cost of these priority items is \$1,841,250. Mr. Fackler commented that the State Police say the district will need 8 busses. Mr. Wilkinson stated that the structural part of the floor is unsound and could be red flagged as early as next October. Mr. Palmer continued that the district could go for a bond for 2 mill to get these things fixed. Then the district would have to turn around and go for another bond and that just isn't going to pass. Mr. Middlin inquired as to the status of the other bonds the district has. Mr. Palmer replied that only 1 bond issue remains which ends May 2019. It is for 2.84 mills and the funds were used to build Central School and add rooms to the Middle School and High School. Mr. Fackler reiterated that the meeting with the Treasury does not mean it automatically goes to ballot.

MOTION by Jeff Fackler, support by Russ Hubbard to proceed with process by meeting with the Treasury Department.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Kennard absent)

A special meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2014 will be posted to decide what will be included in the bond proposal.

2. Mr. Palmer, Mr. Kiss, and Mr. Trisch: We have a lot of stuff from downsizing that we may be able to get rid of. Currently the curriculum has 1 semester of Drafting and 1 semester of Metal Shop. There is not enough funds to keep the metal shop going. What is there is not sufficient for current curriculum. It has become a safety issue. The idea is to retain some of the equipment and sell what can be sold. Then use the funds from the sale to put into a CAD lab, build 3D printers, and paint rooms. This will help the bottom 30% by having computers, learning to program and to interface. They will have something to show at the end of the class and a usable skill. They may be able to raise \$10-20,000. They are currently in the process of recording the equipment and taking pictures. Mr. Middlin stated he understands the reality of getting the equipment to safety levels is not going to happen. He agrees to sell the equipment.

MOTION by Randy Middlin, support by Russ Hubbard to allow surplus school materials to be sold.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Kennard absent)

Mr. Fackler added that it was spoken earlier about replacement furniture and there is a lot stored. He hopes this effort repurposes our stuff to help ourselves and others.

3. Mr. Palmer: A couple meetings ago we talked about creating a newsletter. The cost would be approximately \$1,305. The first issue would be in January and a second issue in the spring. Mr. Fackler inquired if the district would be going to gather feedback to see if the money is well spent. Mr. Palmer replied that the district could add a survey in the second newsletter or do an email survey through Survey Monkey. Mr. Fackler asked what information would be included in the newsletter. Mr. Palmer replied students' letters, Megan's articles, staff articles, etc. Megan Decker will organize and put it out. Mr. Middlin added that Iron Mountain did this a couple years ago. You may want to look at it. It started in the mail then went online. Theirs contained sections like Superintendent's Corner, Building Corner and historical information. Mr. Palmer responded that we will want to do the best we can for as little as we can. Mr. Fackler inquired if the newsletter would be going home with the students. Mr. Palmer replied that we will have a supply in the district. But bulk mailings will hit the outside edges of the district.

MOTION by Jill Baase, support by Russ Hubbard to approve proceeding with the newsletter.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Kennard absent)

J. CURRICULUM ISSUES:

1. Mr. Kiss: Right now in the timeline we have submitted the second draft of the Plan. We will receive a call on January 8, 2015 to discuss further changes. In the meantime we have started implementing these changes. Mrs. Rittenberg presented Word Wall Initiative and Mr. Whitney presented No Opt Out Strategy. These are very simple strategies being used by 34 teachers and is changing the building culture.
2. Mr. Marcy: The Focus School report is submitted and accepted. The team is strategizing and implementing. They are working on the Focus Construction Model.

K. BY-LAWS AND POLICY ISSUES:

1. First time reading of bylaws and policies:
 - a. Policy 1420 School Administrator Evaluation (revised)
 - b. Policy 2370.01 Online/Blended Learning Program (revised)
 - c. Policy 3220 Professional Staff Evaluation (revised)
 - d. Policy 5830 Student Fund-Raising (revised)
 - e. Policy 7540.02 District Web Page (revised)
 - f. Policy 7540.03 Student Education Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (revised)
 - g. Policy 7540.04 Staff Education T Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (revised)
 - h. Policy 8325 Receipt of Legal Documents (revised)
 - i. Policy 8330 Student Records (revised)
 - j. Policy 8500 Food Services (revised)
 - k. Policy 8510 Wellness (revised)
 - l. Policy 8540 Vending Machines (revised)
 - m. Policy 9211 District Support Organizations (revised)
 - n. Policy 9800 High School Diplomas to World War II, Korean Conflict, and Vietnam Era Veterans (revised)

Mr. Middlin asked for clarification regarding Policy 1420 School Administrator Evaluation. Mr. Palmer explained that the new law waives the 60 day notice for 2015-2016. Presently the evaluations aren't done until February. The new law changes it. The board will need to be trained for the Superintendent's evaluation. Currently, we are waiting for the State as documentation is in draft copy. Mr. Kiss added that the growth component that is required will never be ready in February. It will always be ready at year end. Mr. Middlin added that the board can still not offer a contract at the end of the year. This year the process starts 60 days in advance.

L. PERSONNEL ISSUES:

1. Mr. Ross did not show.
2. MOTION by Randy Middlin, support by Kirk Van Wormer to accept the retirement of Beverly (Babe) Churcott, Transportation Secretary of 28.5 years.

MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Kennard absent)

M. STUDENT ISSUES:

N. OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. Mr. Wilkinson discussed with the board the condition of the 2001 Venture Van that the district owns. It is used for sports & extracurricular events as well as to transport a student daily to the Fowler Center and to transport homeless students to another district. It has 165,000 miles on it and is heavily rusted. He would like to purchase a 10 passenger van from Cooks Chevrolet for \$26,605. We don't have bus drivers to cover the runs that would be required should the van no longer be available. Mr. Fackler stated he understands the want but wonders if a smaller van would be less expensive. Mr. Van Wormer added that the 2001 was used when the district

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purchased it. Mr. Wilkinson stated that the used vans were larger 12-15 passenger. Mr. Middlin stated we aren't against the purchase we are just concerned about the cost. Mr. Wilkinson responded that the transportation of students to Fowler and homeless to other districts would require a bus and a driver. The timing of these runs is the same as the regular bus runs and would make the district short and we have no substitutes.

MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Russ Hubbard to buy the 2015 Chevy Express ten passenger van for \$26,605 from Cook Chevrolet.

Roll Call:

Hubbard – Yes

Baase – Yes

Guile – No

Van Wormer – Yes

Fackler – No

Middlin – No

Kennard - absent

MOTION FAILED (3 yes, 3 no, Kennard absent)

O. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1. There was public comment at this meeting.

P. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Palmer informed the board of the 2 issues pending in Lansing. First the gas tax to go to the repair of road will be a hard hit on school funding. Second the State take over and the 17 red flags for the State to take over school districts. Currently only 1 red flag can cause take over at a large financial cost to the district. There is a moratorium on District grades (color levels) so there will be no more new Priority/Focus Schools. There is no way for districts to get out either.

Q. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

- o Mr. Kiss: With all the negative we are hearing, our teachers are positive and moving in the right direction.
- o Mr. Marcy: No comments.
- o Our prayers go to the Legue family.

R. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

S. CLOSED SESSION:

T. DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 12 Senior Citizen Brunch starting at 8:00am

December 19 Christmas Break begins at 3:30pm

January 5 School resumes at 8:20am

U. NEXT REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING:

January 7 Facility Committee Meetings @ 6:00pm in the High School Cafeteria

January 12 Organizational Meeting @ 6:00pm in the Auditorium

January 12 Regular Meeting in the Auditorium @ 6:30pm

V. ADJOURNMENT:

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jeff Fackler to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm.
MOTION CARRIED (6 yes, Kennard absent)

DATED 01-12-2015

SIGNED: Russ Hubbard
(Secretary)