

VASSAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Date: December 9, 2013

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 6:30 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Kennard , Kirk Van Wormer, Russ Hubbard, Ben Guile
Jeff Fackler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jill Baase

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palmer, Paul Wojno, Deb Dewey, Chuck Fabbro, Jason Kiss, Al Hoard

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

1. MOTION by Ben Guile, support by Russ Hubbard to approve agenda as is.
MOTION CARRIED (5 Yes, 0 No, Baase absent)

E. BOARD RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCES:

F. SPOTLIGHT OF MONTH:

1. Mr. Fabbro, Mrs. Gebhardt and Mrs. Loveland presented Operation Christmas Child which Pioneer Work & Learn students participated in to help needy children in other countries.

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CORRECTIONS:

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Jeff Fackler to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2013 Regular Meeting as presented.
MOTION CARRIED (5 Yes, 0 No, Baaseabsent)
2. Mrs. Peplinski asked the board if the discussions could be summarized in the minutes as discussions go faster than she can write. Sometimes what is said is not included in the minutes. Mr. Guile: It is OK to summarize comments from the audience but board members should be stated in the minutes. The other board members agreed.

H. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS AND/ORCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. General Ledger Summary Comparison Reports-General Fund and Food Service: No comments.
2. Internal Fund Balance Sheet- Mr. Van Wormer wanted to know what the gymnastics group was doing to get such a large balance. Mr. Kiss explained that it was income generated by the Youth Gymnastics program.
3. RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Russ Hubbard to approve the payroll expenses in the amount of \$809,614.44.

MOTION CARRIED (5 Yes, 0 No, Baase absent)

RECOMMENDATION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to approve the General Fund expenses in the amount of \$140,350.63.

MOTION CARRIED (5 Yes, 0 No, Baase absent)

Mr. Van Wormer informed the audience that the cost of fuel for the busses was down in November. Mr. Palmer added that the IRS have increased the mileage rate for 2014. Mr. Fackler explained last month's change in the bills paid memo format. They won't find exact numbers. All expenses tied to payroll are totaled for payroll expenses. General Fund costs are those associated with running the district.

4. Committee Reports – NA

I. FINANCIAL ISSUES:

J. CURRICULUM ISSUES:

1. Mr. Dunlap from Michigan Educational Partnership presented a proposal to provide the district with another funding source through Section 23a of the State Aid Code. They use the district's name, find students on east side of state that are not in a traditional educational setting and offer educational services to them. They also will use the company to offer educational services to Pioneer Work & Learn students who have left the facility but want to continue on the same educational track. Mr. Fabbro: Students leave Pioneer and we keep them on E2020 and then they would go to a drop-in center run by Michigan Educational Partnership to continue working on getting their credits. Mr. Palmer: There are other organizations out there. This one looks for kids who are looking for a non-traditional educational venue. Mr. Fabbro: We've had 35 students come since count day that were not counted by any district in the fall 2013 pupil count. So Pioneer can claim these students under Section 23a until Fall 2014 as to program is year round. Mr. Palmer: The students will earn Vassar diplomas. Mr. Guile: This sounds like a great opportunity. We are tired of always being hit. Mr. Fackler: Are any finances invested? Mr. Dunlap: No. Mr. Palmer: If we don't like it. We are able to get out of it. Mr. Dunlap: With 60 day notice. Mr. Palmer: We'll discuss that. Mr. Fabbro: It makes the transition for our students seamless. It helps kids and it helps Wolverine market their program. Mr. Guile: It sounds like a win-win. Mr. Fackler: It sounds too good to be true. Mr. Palmer: This is all new. The laws changed to allow us to do this. Mr. Dunlap: The company is new. My background comes from an ISD. It is a new venue for you. It helps kids make their goals. The staff will help kids figure out how to get what they need to achieve. Mr. Van Wormer: We keep the kids longer. Mr. Fabbro: Yes, instead of 5 months it could be a year or longer. We graduate kids. The kids are sent home on tethers. Mr. Dunlap: We maximize the resources in the community.

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Ben Guile to contract with Michigan Educational Partnership to offer blended programming to non-district students.

MOTION CARRIED (5 Yes, 0 No, Baase absent)

K. BY-LAWS AND POLICY ISSUES:

1. MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Ben Guile to accept the bylaw/policy changes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED (5 Yes, 0 No, Baase absent)

L. PERSONNEL ISSUES:

1. Mr. Palmer: Roger Bacon resigned as he could not have dual board membership in the same community. He was a good school board member and we wish him the best of luck as Mayor. The district has 30 days to fill the vacancy. We need to set a special meeting date for interviews. I will have Megan put a notice in the paper. The special meeting date will be Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 6:00pm in the High School Media Center to interview candidates. The deadline to accept applications will be Monday, December 16, 2013 at 3:30pm. The position will end on December 31, 2014.

M. STUDENT ISSUES:

N. OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. Mr. Palmer: Last week the Finance Committees from both the Millington and Vassar Boards and the Superintendents met to discuss shared services. It turned into an emergency situation due to Mr. Males' health and stepping down from his role as Superintendent in Millington. Mr. Van Wormer read the resolution for sharing Vassar's Superintendent. Mr. Van Wormer: We had a good conversation with Millington's Committee. We concluded that with the continuing financial

problems, we can share some of these responsibilities. This is a leading/cutting edge thing. Districts are decreasing in students. We have Thomas who is good and competent. And we decided to give it a try. So with the relationship existing between the 2 superintendents it would be good to try. All Finance Committee members agreed. Mr. Fackler: We discussed the issues but the benefits outweighed. This is not how we used to do business. This sharing of resources is going to become more common. We are one of the first in the area to try this. It won't be 100% flawless but it is the right thing to do. Mr. Hubbard: Both districts are on the same page. We are trying to get through a difficult situation. Onna Clinesmith: Millington is paying Vassar \$36,000 and we are paying Mr. Palmer \$12,000. Is \$24,000 really a benefit as we are losing a full time Superintendent? Vassar was short a superintendent once and a principal filled in. Mr. Palmer: It will be a different situation. We will split duties and responsibilities. Onna Clinesmith: Is there a schedule set as to when he will be in each of the districts? Mr. Fackler: He is always available by phone. It will be a learning curve. Administration will step up and pick up some responsibilities. We don't have a lot of options. We are doing this on a trial basis to help Millington Community School and give our school some savings. Mr. Palmer: This is the first step due to Mr. Males' health. We have other services we are looking to share to help us maintain programs without upsetting the classroom. We have to do something as our money isn't going to change. Mr. Males: This was sooner than anticipated. I will stay on as a consultant for Millington. If a situation arises in Vassar, I will be available to step in so Mr. Palmer can address it. If the 2 districts can do this successfully it will save taxpayer dollars and save programming. The foundation allowance is not increasing. Enrollment is declining. This can preserve programming. Onna Clinesmith: Will Mr. Palmer be paid mileage? Mr. Palmer: Mileage will be paid to me by Millington. Onna Clinesmith: If something happens when Mr. Palmer is travelling has this been addressed? Mr. Palmer: It is no different than driving to work in Vassar. An audience member felt that it wasn't a good deal for Vassar.

MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to approve the sharing of the Superintendent with Millington Community Schools.

MOTION CARRIED (5 Yes, 0 No, Baase absent)

O. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 24 attendees.

- Onna Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd, Vassar, MI: Think about the organizational meeting and officers. Bargaining agreements coming up are bus drivers, custodians, Pioneer Work & Learn Teachers, Vassar Teachers are all due. Think about officers because of your new conflict of interest policy. Mr. Palmer: Negotiations may start at the end of the school year.
- Linda Inglis, 6100 Hess, Vassar, MI 48768: No comment.
- Mary Foess, 5845 Waterman, Vassar, MI 48768: When you have private meetings, do you change prior decisions? Mr. Fackler: Closed sessions are for discussion only. All decisions can only be made in open meetings.

P. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Latchkey: In November we had 29 students and we now have 35. We continue to show a profit. Mr. Fackler: We have more kids but are showing about the same profit. Mr. Palmer: With more kids we had to have 1 more staff person. Mrs. Peplinski: Due to the holiday we are also down 1 deposit. Mr. Fackler: Oh yes. Thank you. Excellent job!

Q. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

- Mr. Fabbro: We have graduated 6 GED and 5 High School. We even mailed a diploma to Traverse City.
- Mr. Kiss: We got good feed back from Parent-Teacher conferences. Opened lines of communication. The online progress reports have helped. Staff is looking for alternative funding.

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- Mrs. Dewey: Santa is coming December 19th. Central School science teachers are meeting to work on Common Core Standards. ACT practice test is January 14th. The Title I grant has been approved for K-12. The Title I D grant for Pioneer is still in progress.
- Mr. Wojno: The Senior Citizens Brunch is this Friday from 8:00 – 12:30pm. We have received financial help from outside groups to counter adjustments. The Women’s Group (Sue Campbell) gave a financial donation which was used to buy ingredients for cookies and brownies to be handed out at the brunch. Matt Koch’s financial group donated funds that bought 260 presents. So far our students have volunteered their services at the Yuletide Tree Lighting and Fire Department Christmas party; assembled gifts for Senior Citizens Brunch; made 900 pies to raise funds for NYC trip of which Pioneer Sugar donated about 450 pounds of sugar to make the pies.
- Mr. Hoard: The gym floor refinishing will start December 23rd and will take most of Christmas break.

R. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Mr. Fackler: Spread the word that we need a board member.

S. CLOSED SESSION:

T. DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 13 – Senior Citizens Brunch starting at 8:00am

December 16 – Holiday Band Concert

December 20 – Christmas Break begins at 3:30pm

January 6 – School resumes at 8:20am

U. NEXT REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING:

December 18- Special Meeting to Interview Candidates for Board Vacancy in the High School Media Center at 6:00pm

January 13 – Organizational Meeting in the High School Media Center @ 6:00pm

January 13 – Regular Meeting in the High School Media Center @ 6:30pm

V. ADJOURNMENT:

1. MOTION by Ben Guile, support by Jeff Fackler to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm.

MOTION CARRIED

DATED: _____ SIGNED: _____

(Secretary)