

VASSAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Special Meeting of the Board of Education

Date: December 18, 2013

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Place: High School Media Center

A. CALL TO ORDER:

1. The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Mike Kennard at 6:00 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palmer

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

1. MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Ben Guile to approve agenda and remove Onna Clinesmith from interview list as she has declined an interview.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

E. OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. Mr. Palmer reviewed the form and the procedures with the board.

MOTION by Ben Guile, support by Russ Hubbard to recess at 6:15pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Ben Guile to return to session at 6:30pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

2. The board conducted interviews with the following candidates:

- o 6:30 Lou Smallwood
- o 7:00 Gary Kasper
- o 7:22 Kourtney Pepler
- o 7:40 Randy Middlin

MOTION by Ben Guile, support by Russ Hubbard to recess at 8:10pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

MOTION by Russ Hubbard, support by Ben Guile to return to session at 8:20pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

3. Mr. Palmer reviewed the selection procedures with the board. Mr. Fackler: Kourtney works with the school directly as a day-to-day job. Is this a conflict of interest? Mr. Palmer: No, she is not employed by the district. If anything it could benefit her. Plus, she could always abstain. Mr. Fackler: Is it a concern that Randy Middlin could be too close to the school? Mr. Guile: No, he is but 1 vote. The weight of the board would be what is best for kids. Mr. Van Wormer: Randy Middlin, I don't know if he'd be a good board member. He was with us, then he left us, then he went to Reese. We have Tom as our Superintendent. Will he go through the chain of command or will he take charge like a Superintendent? Mrs. Baase: You've got to be fair and give him a chance, devil's advocate. The biggest job when you get on the board is to understand what is going on. I think you have to give him the opportunity. He is only 1 vote. Mr. Guile: He is uniquely qualified that he can hit the floor running. Mr. Fackler: He is a strong-willed individual and I don't know if there will be conflicts between the old and the new. Mr. Guile: There are several strong-willed individuals on this board. But he is just one vote. Mr. Hubbard: I don't want him in there doing Tom's job. Mr. Palmer: That's my role to point that out. Mr. Kennard: You have to contain the situation and we have talked about this. Mr. Guile: If you look at the numbers, we have a unique individual with qualifications. If it becomes a bad situation, the public

will decide the next person. The board unanimously agreed to make the selection by choosing the candidate with the highest total points.

MOTION by Ben Guile, support by Jeff Fackler, to offer to Randy Middlin the 12 month balance of the vacancy due to Roger Bacon’s resignation.

ROLL CALL:

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

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 10 attendees.

- o Onna Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd, Vassar, MI: When trying to save money, districts cut art, band, and busses. She’s like to see cuts that don’t hit these areas. She disagrees with Randy Middlin about the State being out to get school districts. She disagrees with Randy Middlin about the State controlling education because the Common Core is out there. She doesn’t understand Randy Middlin’s comments during his interview regarding weapons. These people should come to school board meetings to find out what is going on.
- o Michael Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd, Vassar, MI: We had some good candidates. I was interested in the candidates’ vision of public education. It is a very tough job. It is not just the financial issues but also about culture and expectations. We need to come up with creative solutions and ways to improve financially. We need to have a good vision to get those students prepared.
- o Robert McKay, 795 W Huron Ave, Vassar, MI: I think Vassar needs to realize its successes. We have graduates that are VP’s at U of M, worked for the United Nations, and so on. Please keep in mind this different plateau. You have a lot to be proud of.

G. ADJOURNMENT:

1. MOTION by Kirk Van Wormer, support by Jeff Fackler to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimous)

DATED: _____ SIGNED: _____

(Secretary)