

Van Meter Community School Board of Education
Regular Session-Monday, February 20, 2012
6:30 p.m. @ Secondary Library

ATTENDANCE

Present: Directors Jim Folkerts, Brian Gordon, Lance Lauterbach, and Dan Koster, Superintendent John Carver, and Secretary Shonna Trudo
Absent: Director Liz Thompson
Guests: Jen Sigrist, Deron Durlinger, Rick Roberts, Lynne Caltrider, Johnny Boyd, and Kelly Bell

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Jim Folkerts called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY SECRETARY

Secretary Trudo noted Director Thompson was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Lauterbach moved, seconded by Director Gordon to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

OPEN FORUM

No comments from the public.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Vice-President Folkerts presented the consent agenda items. Director Koster moved, seconded by Director Gordon to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2012 regular meeting and February 7, 2012 work session, bills for payment, financial statements for all funds, open enrollment requests, and the following personnel transactions:

Open Enrollment Requests (2012-13 unless otherwise noted):

IN:

- Lauren Boston – 10th grade – from ADM
- Leo Hayes – 1st grade – from Winterset
- Paige Barr – 2nd grade – from ADM (2011-12)
- Emma Barr – 5th grade – from ADM (2011-12)
- Danae Herman – 9th grade – from WDSM
- James McMahon – 4th grade – from DSM (subject to DSM's approval)

OUT:

- Shae Saxton – 10th grade – to Waukee
- Zach Clayton – 11th grade – to Waukee
- Kelsey Cozad – 10th grade – to Waukee
- Shannon Cretsinger – 10th grade – to Waukee

Personnel Transactions

Resignations: Joel Bartz – JH Softball Coach

Hirings: Garland Shirley – JH Softball and HS Softball Coach

Motion carried 4-0.

Second Reading of Board Policy 407.6 – Early Retirement for Certified Staff

Superintendent Carver reviewed the proposed early retirement policy for certified staff. Discussion from the Board regarding the benefits and the financial impact to the District. No motion was made to approve the second reading of the policy.

Loan from General Fund to Management Fund

Secretary Trudo explained the need for the general fund to extend a short term loan to the management fund as discussed previously in order to pay the additional early retirement benefits and non-medical insurance for the 2011-12 school year. The amount of the loan will be levied in the management fund during the 2012-13 school year. Director Gordon moved, seconded by Director Koster to approve the loan from the General Fund to the Management Fund for \$130,000 with an interest rate of .5% to be paid back no later than October 1, 2012. Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Facilities Report

Architect Johnny Boyd reviewed design strategy, planning for enrollment growth, city partnerships, and timelines for construction and bond referendums.

Budget Report

Mr. Carver explained that the district will end fiscal year 2012 as projected, increasing both unspent balance and ending fund balance. However, these reserves will be needed as fiscal year 2013 expenses are expected to exceed revenues primarily due to low allowable growth the last two years and legislative changes in cash reserve levy limits.

Secretary Trudo reviewed the preliminary 2013 certified budget, noting that the overall tax rate will decrease due to the new limits on cash reserves. FY2013 requirements in the Management Fund, Physical Plant and Equipment Levy and Debt Service funds were also reviewed. Property valuation for the district increased by 5.25%. A public hearing will be held at the end of March or early April to approve the FY2013 budget.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Carver reported that to-date, forty kindergartners were signed up for next year, analysis of staff needs for 2012-13 are currently underway, and discussions regarding expanding foreign language opportunities for students continue to be reviewed. He congratulated the secondary for being one of 53 schools nationally to earn an Apple Distinguished School award. Lastly, Mr. Carver mentioned that he was given the opportunity to share the Van Meter story at the Midwest Educational Technology Conference in St. Louis, Missouri February 13-14. He received a lot of positive feedback from other educators at the conference as to the teaching and learning taking place at Van Meter School.

Director of Teaching and Learning Report

Jen Sigrist reviewed the value of second language learning, noting that the changing demographics in our country are moving toward a more diverse population. Research shows the benefits of learning a second language in academic achievement, cognitive benefits, and positive attitudes towards other cultures and languages.

Secondary Principal

Deron Durlinger reviewed the various classes being offered through the Madison County Career Academy (Winterset) in which Van Meter students are able to participate in. Classes are in the areas of construction trades, culinary arts, engineering, and health occupations. Students can earn both high school and college credit while learning technical and employable skills.

Activities Director

Rick Roberts explained his desire to expand the number of coaches at the junior high level to help provide more basic fundamental instruction for Van Meter's junior high athletes to help better prepare them for high school athletics.

Board Reports

Discussion regarding the March and April board meeting schedule. The March regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. due to spring break. The Board will hear from the student leadership team at this time. There will also be a special board meeting on Monday, February 27, 2012 to decide whether or not to move forward with football field bleacher renovations.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Gordon moved, seconded by Director Lauterbach to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.
Time: 8:02 p.m.

These minutes have not yet been approved. For additional information, please contact the Business Office at 515-996-9960.

Respectfully submitted,
Shonna Trudo
Board Secretary
Van Meter Community School