

Van Meter Community School Board of Education
Regular Session-Monday, August 15, 2011
6:30 p.m. @ Secondary Library

ATTENDANCE

Present: Directors Liz Thompson, Maureen Fisher, John Seefeld, Brian Gordon, Lance Lauterbach (via telephone), Superintendent John Carver, and Secretary Shonna Trudo
Absent: none
Guests: Rick Roberts, Deron Durlfänger, Maribeth Arentsen, Kelly Bell, Jen Sigrist, Dan Koster, Tim Costlow, Jim Folkerts, Don Brittain, Theresa Drummond, and Ben Bright

CALL TO ORDER

President Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., noting that Director Fisher was on her way.

ROLL CALL BY SECRETARY

Secretary Trudo noted all members present; Director Lauterbach via telephone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Gordon moved, seconded by Director Seefeld to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

OPEN FORUM

Jim Folkerts, Don Brittain, and Ben Bright communicated their support for a blue track.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

President Thompson presented the consent agenda items. Director Seefeld moved, seconded by Director Fisher to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2011 regular meeting, bills for payment, financial statements for all funds, open enrollment requests, official newspaper, school depository, child abuse investigators, Equal Opportunity Coordinator, and length of school day, all as noted below:

Open Enrollments (all IN to Van Meter)

- Brayden Applegate – 4th grade from Urbandale
- Zachary Christensen – 10th grade from Waukee
- Kimmy Greiner – 11th grade from Winterset
- Brookelynn Heater – K from ADM
- Tyler Kern – 12th grade from Winterset
- Nicole Meyer – 9th grade from WDSM
- Kendall Anderson – 10th grade from Waukee

Official Newspaper

- Dallas County News

School Depository

- Wells Fargo, Iowa Schools Joint Investment Trust (ISJIT), and Earlham Savings Bank, each with a depository limit of \$3,000,000 for each fund

Child Abuse Investigators

- Level I: Julie Leetch
Rick Roberts (pending certification)
- Level II: Dallas County Sheriff's Office

Equal Opportunity Coordinator

- Shonna Trudo

Length of School Day

- 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Elementary)

- 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (Secondary)

Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel Transactions

The personnel transactions were reviewed. Director Seefeld moved, seconded by Director Gordon to approve the following personnel transactions.

Hirings

- Shawna Delpierre – Custodian - \$11.50/hr (full time)
- Karen Schlote – Teacher Associate - \$10.50/hr (part time)
- Phillip Herbert – Cook - \$9.19/hr (full time)
- Kathleen Hansen – Cook \$9.00/hr (part time)

Resignations

- Tina Murray – Teacher Associate

Motion carried 5-0.

Track Construction Project

Mr. Carver reviewed the proposed change orders and additional costs for the track construction project that had come up to date.

- 1) Pass Gate: \$1549
- 2) Sod: \$5000
- 3) Conduit for Speaker Wire to the Visitor Side: \$1500
- 4) Sidewalk and Stairs at SW corner: \$11,970
- 5) Tree Removal: \$4500

Director Fisher moved, seconded by Director Seefeld to approve the change orders as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Carver reviewed the remaining undesignated funds totaling \$118,000. He stressed all of these remaining funds should not be committed to additional items, but that at least \$18,000 should remain for contingency. Athletic Director Rick Roberts reviewed the additional items for the Board's consideration: the color of the track, a sound system, and FinishLynx (timing) systems. The Board discussed the various options and costs. Director Gordon spoke of his desire to have a blue track, stressing that this would build even more school pride in Van Meter athletics and would be a huge asset for the district as a whole. Director Lauterbach agreed with Director Gordon, adding that he believes this would help draw additional students.

Director Lauterbach moved to approve the upgrade to a blue all-weather track (\$62,000). Director Seefeld moved to amend Director Lauterbach's motion to also include option 3 for a sound system (2-400 watt speakers and 1-200 watt speaker for an additional cost of \$10,204) and a Bruce Whiting FinishLynx System (includes wireless start, portable pole, color camera with motion control, electrical installation, and 3 laptops for an additional cost of \$24,025). Director Gordon seconded the motion.

Discussion regarding the current bathrooms and future plans to upgrade restroom facilities. Director Fisher stated that she was not opposed to making the track blue, but had concerns about the color fading. She stressed that something must be done about the current restroom facilities and asked to wait on approving the FinishLynx system, since this would not be used until the spring for track season and would allow flexibility with additional dollars until it is determined what to do with the restrooms. The Board agreed that the existing restroom facilities must be improved in the short term until long range plans are decided.

The vote was taken. Motion passed 3-2 (Director Thompson and Fisher – no).

Director Lauterbach exited the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Jen Sigrist reviewed the district's three main assessments which are used to measure student proficiency, and growth in reading, math, and science. She also reviewed the 2011-12 professional development model that will be used by the district.

John Carver reviewed student achievement goals for 2011-12, elementary and secondary building goals, and informed the Board that weighted grades will be implemented in physics, college prep English, and calculus with an additional .5 weight increase. Mr. Carver noted that the state has opportunities for additional funding for innovative schools.

Business Manager

Shonna Trudo reported on very preliminary enrollment numbers for 2011-12. Initially it appeared that the district may have about 10 more students in the building than last year, but that after the first day of school, counts of students who actually attended may indicate enrollment could decline slightly. The official count date will be October 1st. The annual financial audit is scheduled for August 18-19. Final 2010-11 financial information will be presented during the September board meeting.

Superintendent Report

John Carver informed the Board that beginning in September, meetings for the district needs assessment will start and that student representatives from Van Meter School will be meeting with Governor Branstad at the State Fair on August 19th to discuss the future of education. Mr. Carver also discussed the impact of the recent downgrade of the federal government's credit rating. According to Piper Jaffray, there will be no impact on the district's current outstanding debt since all interest rates are fixed. Future borrowing may be slightly impacted, but is yet to be determined. We will continue to monitor the local economy and job growth in the surrounding areas, and its impact on student enrollment and the district's budget.

Board Reports

Director Seefeld encouraged new and existing board members to attend the IASB Convention in November. Director Fisher noted that she will be attending a County Assessor's meeting and asked for a status on the students finishing chemistry on-line this summer.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Seefeld moved, seconded by Director Fisher to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.

Time: 8:26 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