

Van Meter Community School Board of Education
Regular Session, Tuesday, March 13, 2012
2:00 p.m. @ Secondary Library

ATTENDANCE

Present: Directors Liz Thompson, Jim Folkerts, Brian Gordon, Lance Lauterbach, and Dan Koster, Superintendent John Carver, and Secretary Shonna Trudo
Absent: None
Guests: Jen Sigrist, Deron Durlfanger, Elaine Merical, Johnny Boyd, JoEllen Wesselmann, Kelly Bell, Mike Bardwell, Claire Kinley, and Caroline Closson

CALL TO ORDER

President Liz Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY SECRETARY

Secretary Trudo noted that all Board members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

President Thompson suggested re-visiting the early retirement policy.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPORT

Claire Kinley and Caroline Closson, representing the Student Leadership Team, presented a list of pros and cons of Van Meter School to the Board. The Board discussed the items with the presenters. The Board thanked Claire and Caroline for sharing their feedback.

OPEN FORUM

No comments from the public.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

President Thompson presented the consent agenda items. Director Koster moved, seconded by Director Folkerts to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2012 regular meeting and February 27, 2012 special 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:

- Abigail Daley – 11th – from Waukee
- Dane Beeler – K – from Waukee
- Levi Beeler – 2nd – from Waukee
- Grace Garrison – K – from WDSM
- Paige Garrison – K – from WDSM
- Grady Sigrist – K – from Waukee
- Autumn Nelson – 9th – from ADM (2011-12)

OUT:

- Katherine Closson – 9th – to Waukee

Personnel Transactions

Resignations: Jeremy Cooper – Industrial Tech Teacher
Jared Lange – Secondary Language Arts Teacher

Hirings: Dustin Wright – Asst. High School Boys Track

Motion carried 5-0.

Select Audit Firm to Conduct Annual Independent Audits

Shonna Trudo reviewed the audit proposals and answered questions from the Board. Director Folkerts moved, seconded by Director Koster to approve the audit bid from Burton Tracey, P.C. to be the district's certified auditors for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

Set Date, Time, and Place for Public Hearing on the FY2013 Budget

Shonna Trudo noted that a special board meeting would be needed in order to have the public hearing on the FY13 budget prior to the April 16th deadline. Director Koster moved, seconded by Director Gordon to set the public hearing for approval of the FY2013 certified budget for Monday, April 2, 2012 at 6:30 in the secondary library. Motion carried 5-0.

Purchase of a Tractor

Superintendent Carver briefly reviewed the tractor bids. Kelly Bell answered questions regarding anticipated use of the new tractor, future cost savings to the district, plant/op budgets, etc. Director Folkerts moved, seconded by Director Gordon to approve the purchase of an L3240HST tractor with attachments from Capital City Equipment Company. Motion passed 3-2 (Directors Lauterbach and Thompson-no).

2012-13 Teacher Salary/Benefits Settlement

Mr. Carver reviewed the negotiated agreement of a 4% increase of salary/benefits that had been reached between the Van Meter Education Association (VMEA) and Board Negotiating Committee (Directors Lauterbach and Thompson and Superintendent Carver), along with various language changes to the Master Contract. Directors Lauterbach and Thompson commented that the settlement was well deserved by the teachers and was intended to recognize the hard work and extra effort of the teaching staff.

Director Folkerts moved, seconded by Director Koster to approve the teachers' contract settlement of a 4% salaries and benefits increase along with proposed language changes to the Master Contract for 2012-13. Motion carried 5-0.

Additional Staffing for 2012-13

Mr. Carver reviewed the need for restructuring the current music staff. The proposed, new structure will be a half time elementary music teacher, a half time grades 6-12 vocal music teacher, and a full time secondary instrumental band instructor. Mr. Carver and Secondary Principal Deron Durlinger explained the need for an additional secondary language arts teacher in order to keep class sizes down.

Director Gordon moved, seconded by Director Koster to approve the creation of a .5 FTE Secondary Language Arts teacher for the 2012-13 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

Director Koster moved, seconded by Director Lauterbach to approve the restructuring of the music staff as noted above for the 2012-13 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Superintendent Report

Mr. Carver gave a legislative update, reviewed enrollment projections, and noted that the district is exploring ways to partner with the city and the Iowa Work Force Development to provide online digital tools for assessing job skills.

Director Thompson and Koster left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Facilities Report

Architect Johnny Boyd reviewed the designs for the proposed building project and answered questions from the Board regarding costs, various phases of the project, and design components.

Director of Teaching and Learning Report

Jen Sigrist gave the Board a handout with mid year benchmark math results. Due to time, no verbal report.

Secondary Principal

Deron Durflinger handed out information regarding the Honors Diploma at Van Meter.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Lauterbach moved, seconded by Director Gordon to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

Time: 4:55 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