

Van Meter Community School Board of Education
Regular Session-Monday, November 21, 2011
6:30 p.m. @ Secondary Library

ATTENDANCE

Present: Directors Liz Thompson, Brian Gordon, Jim Folkerts, Lance Lauterbach, Dan Koster, Superintendent John Carver, and Secretary Shonna Trudo
Absent: none
Guests: Deron Durflinger, Jen Sigrist, Lynne Caltrider, Jodi Corcoran, Annie Pettit, Trey Armistead, Shawn Hyer, Brenda Engstrand, Kelly Bell, Stacy Peterson, Lori Walton, Patrick Smith, and Drew Bracken

CALL TO ORDER

President Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:30 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.

OPEN FORUM

No comments from the public.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

President Thompson presented the consent agenda items. Director Folkerts moved, seconded by Director Gordon to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2011 regular board meeting, bills for payment, financial statements for all funds, open enrollment requests, and personnel transactions all as noted below:

Open Enrollments

- Savannah Spitz – 4th grade – to DSM
- Aubrey Capps – 1st grade – to Waukee
- Henry Hollander – 1st grade – to Earlham
- Logan Eastman – 1st grade – to Waukee

Personnel Transactions

- Allison Lytle – Destination Imagination Coordinator
- Barb Sandusky – Cook – 7 hrs/day

Motion carried 5-0.

SBRC Application for On-Time Funding

Shonna Trudo reviewed the application for additional allowable growth for increased enrollment (3.2) and on-time funding for open enrollment out students not on last year's count (10). This would result in \$58,830 of additional allowable growth for the district. Director Gordon moved, seconded by Director Koster to approve that Van Meter School request \$58,830 of additional allowable growth to the SBRC for increased open enrollment and on-time funding for open enrolled out students. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution for the Perpetual Underground Electric Line Easement with MidAmerican

President Thompson explained that last month, the Board held a public hearing to consider granting the underground electrical easement by the water tower to MidAmerican. This would allow MidAmerican to perform the necessary electrical work so AT&T can build a cell phone tower in partnership with the city. Discussion from the Board. Director Koster moved, seconded by Director Folkerts to approve the resolution for the granting of a perpetual underground electric line easement as presented. Motion carried 4-0. (Director Thompson abstained).

School Advisory Committee

Jen Sigrist recommended the following patrons to serve on the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) that meets three times per year to recommend annual student achievement goals to the school board and other suggestions for school improvement. Members include: Melanie Smith, Kim Steelman, Monica Reicks, Susie Gates, Tammy Corkrean, Stephanie Van Dee, Anne Berg, Brenda Engstrand, and John Volk. Director Gordon moved, seconded by Director Koster to approve membership to the SIAC committee for the 2011-12 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Superintendent Carver introduced the concept of competency based education to the Board, noting that instead of merely letter grades, competency based grading measures students' proficiency on well defined course objectives or standards. This allows students to understand more fully what concepts they need additional assistance with and which ones they have mastered.

Secondary Principal Deron Durflinger reviewed the timeline and process the Van Meter Secondary staff have gone through in their conversations on standards based grading. Teachers Shawn Hyer, Stacy Peterson, Annie Pettit, and Trey Armistead all presented how they are beginning to implement standards based grading in their subject area.

Discussion from the Board and Mr. Durflinger regarding how this type of grading impacts post secondary options for students and that for now, the traditional A,B,C,D, and F grades will still be used. Jen Sigrist also addressed how competency based grading relates to the Iowa Core.

Business Manager

Shonna Trudo reviewed the 2011-12 general fund line item budget, noting that revenues are projected at just over \$6 million while expenses are estimated at \$5.66 million. She noted that due to the increase in the general fund balance last year that the district did not have to incur any short term borrowing as in the past few years. The impact on spending authority and solvency ratio were also reviewed. Twenty-five percent of overall expenses was discussed as an acceptable target for a fund balance carryover.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Carver noted that he and the City of Van Meter have had discussions on a joint School Board/City Council meeting after the new mayor and city council members are seated in January. He briefly mentioned that the 'punch' list for the track project was being reviewed and that conversations regarding strategic planning for the physical plant have begun with the administrative team and Architect Johnny Boyd.

Mr. Carver also mentioned that work is progressing on the 2012-13 school calendar. Design features include starting the year August 15, last day of classes would be May 22, 2013, spring break would coordinate with DMACC and surrounding school districts, and a weekly one hour late start is being proposed for professional development activities. The proposed school calendar will be presented to the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) and the School Improvement Team for input with the intention of bringing a proposal to the Board in the December board meeting.

The Board recessed at 8:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:14 pm..

Closed Session in Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5 (1)(c): Superintendent Review

Director Gordon moved, seconded by Director Koster to approve holding a closed session as provided in section 21.5 (1)(i) of the open meetings law to discuss strategy with counsel in matters where litigation is imminent and where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of this school district in that litigation. A roll call vote was taken. Time: 8:15 p.m.

Director Lauterbach	yes
Director Gordon	yes
Director Thompson	yes

Director Koster yes
Director Folkerts yes

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Folkerts moved, seconded by Director Koster to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.

Time: 9:15 p.m.

These minutes have not yet been approved. For questions, please call the district office at 996-9960.

Respectfully submitted,
Shonna Trudo
Board Secretary
Van Meter Community School