

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Board of Education
February 8, 2010
Middle School – 7:00 pm
MINUTES

Members Present: Wil Emmert, Jean Eldred, David Schriemer, Tom Danielson, Tina Forsyth, Carol Lohman, and Virgil Knowles
Secretary Karen Hill

Administrators Present: Supt. Charles Glaes, Asst. Supt. Steve Goss, MS Principal Greg Tibbetts, Asst. MS Principal Laura Kuhlman, HS Principal Rob Kuhlman, HS Asst. Principal Keevin O'Neill, SL Principal Pat Moreno, IL Principal Rick Szabla, TY Principal Mike Barwegen, Transportation Director Ric Beers, Adult/Community Ed Director Tonya Nash. Food Service Director Maureen Ouvry

Guests Present: John Gisler, Shirley Axtell, Liz Ratashak, Sharon Moyle, Niki Day, Chris Bailey, Jennifer Holmes, Sue Rowe, Chris Laaksonen, Jody Young, Chris Gearig, Mike Taylor, Steph Mallery, Renae Cummings, Ethan Cummings, Diane Fort, Adam Fort, Karen Petersen, Chris Armitage, Steve Fryling, Paula Branch, Amy Manchester, Kathy McCormick, Steve Thomas, David Tultz, Vernon Thompson

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. **VCSF Annual Report - Warren Lawrence:** Mr. Lawrence reported that it was an exciting year for new and innovative Bardeen and Curiosity grants. Mr. Lawrence stated that community support is the key to the Foundation's success and thanked Amy Manchester, Tonya Nash, Steve Goss, and Charlie Glaes for their contributions to a successful year.
- B. **Recognitions:**
 - 1. **Christine Bailey - Parent Volunteer Program:** Mr. Tibbetts introduced Mrs. Bailey, recognizing her for heading the Middle School parent group.
 - 2. **Principal's Week:** Supt. Glaes read a proclamation from Governor Granholm recognizing the week of February 8 as Principal's Week. The Board thanked the Principals for being outstanding instructional leaders.
- C. **Student Enrollment - Count Day - February 10, 2010:** Karen Hill reported that should February 10 be a snow day, February 11 will be the official count day.
- D. **Legislative Report:** Mr. Glaes reported that the Governor has many items in her budget proposal which will need careful watching for budget planning.
- E. **Important Dates:** In addition to the important dates included with the agenda, an H1N1 Clinic will be held at Sunset Lake Elementary on Tuesday from 3-6; State Representative Jace Bolger's Town Hall Meeting on February 23 at 6:00 pm; and the Middle School Family Science Night is March 10.

II. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY

A. Business and Finance Report - Steve Goss:

1. Budget Progress Report for the Month Ending January 31, 2010: Asst. Supt. Goss reviewed the budget progress report for January 2010 showing total revenues of \$8,774,906; total expenditures of \$10,664,824; and deficiency of revenues over expenditures of -\$1,839,918.

B. Instructional Report

1. Annual Curriculum/Program Proposals and Reports - Charles Glaes:

- a. 8th Grade Science Proposal - Steve Fryling: Mr. Fryling explained that the proposal is an outcome of the Michigan Merit changes and graduation requirements. Mr. Fryling described the components of the proposal.

2. Middle School Preparation for the EPAS Testing System - Greg Tibbetts: Mr. Tibbetts reviewed areas of student success and strategies for test taking. Mr. Tibbetts recognized Sue Rowe, Jody Young, Stephanie Mallory, Chris Laaksonen, and Paula Branch who were present to explain changes in the English Department.

C. Audience: Mike Taylor addressed the Board on the student/teacher ratio and automobile/mileage stipends.

Supt. Glaes responded that the Board does not want to increase class sizes; however, if the state keeps significantly dropping funding ultimately districts across the state will have no choice but to increase class size. The District is continuing to look for ways to reduce costs without increasing class sizes including cuts away from the classroom and employee concessions. Administrators receive automobile/mileage stipends depending upon the amount of travel required for their position. Stipend amounts were set many years ago and are being reviewed.

Niki Day asked if it is possible to see how a Board member votes.

Supt. Glaes responded that action items are public records. Agendas and open session minutes are available on the District website under the Board of Education link.

Asst. Supt. Goss stated that if the District were to go to a mileage reimbursement, some would be more and some would be less. The District does not reimburse for commuting miles.

Christine Bailey asked what the District is doing to increase revenues.

Supt. Glaes stated that the District is looking at pay to play athletics and pay to participate for non-athletic activities.

Asst. Supt. Goss stated that the District is budgeting \$120,000 in new revenue next year. Jenni Holmes asked about fewer student days.

Supt. Glaes stated that we owe kids the best we can do to prepare them and time on task with an effective teacher is the single most effective factor for student learning.

President Knowles added that the only people hurt by reducing days are support staff. The District would only reduce student days temporarily if teaching pay was reduced as well, but that will need to be determined through collective bargaining. Reducing support staff only equates to approximately \$7,000/day. The loss of learning time is a huge cost for a small financial gain.

Christine Bailey responded that the longer kids are away from the learning environment hurts them.

Liz Ratashak stated that wage concessions were part of discussion with VEA. She stated that teacher salaries are near the bottom of the county; however, average level is higher due to veteran teachers.

Christine Bailey asked if students are testing that much higher because we have veteran teachers.

Supt. Glaes responded that there is no research showing a veteran teacher impacts achievement.

Chris Armitage stated that he also has found no correlation between amount of education and student learning.

Asst. Supt. Goss concluded stating that it is a balancing act, but the District must be fiscally responsibly while maintaining programs at the highest level. The District will be making administrative cuts and will be looking at other cuts as well; however, it is too early to be specific. There will not be any cuts for the current school year.

Vern Thompson asked if the District falls within the 28% threshold for non-instructional support expenditures as proposed by SB 1073.

Asst. Supt. Goss responded that the District is over slightly due to transportation costs and other factors.

III. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

A. Approval of the Following Meeting Minutes:

1. January 11, 2010 Regular Meeting: A motion was made by Emmert and supported by Forsyth to approve regular meeting minutes dated January 11, 2010.
Motion carried unanimously.
2. January 11, 2010 Special Meeting - Open Session: A motion was made by Forsyth and supported by Danielson to approve special meeting-open session meeting minutes dated January 11, 2010.
Motion carried unanimously.
3. January 11, 2010 - Special Meeting - Closed Session: A motion was made by Forsyth and supported by Eldred to approve special meeting-closed session meeting minutes dated January 11, 2010.
Motion carried unanimously.
4. January 14, 2010 Special Meeting: A motion was made by Emmert and supported by Lohman to approval special meeting minutes dated January 14, 2010.
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of the Following General Fund Invoices - ROLL CALL VOTE:

1. January 8, 2010 = \$47,252.43: A motion was made by Schriemer and supported by Eldred to approve payment of invoices dated January 8, 2010 totaling \$47,252.43.
Ayes: Emmert, Eldred, Schriemer, Danielson, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles
Nays: None

Absent: None
Abstain: None
Motion carried unanimously.

2. January 15, 2010 = \$4,710.00: A motion was made by Forsyth and supported by Danielson to approve payment of invoices dated January 15, 2010 totaling \$4,710.00.

Ayes: Emmert, Eldred, Schriemer, Danielson, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

3. January 22, 2010 = \$245,336.74: A motion was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth to approve payment of invoices dated January 22, 2010 totaling \$245,336.74.

Ayes: Emmert, Eldred, Schriemer, Danielson, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

- C. 1st Reading Approval of 8th Grade Science Proposal at a 2010-11 cost of \$17,192.39 with a yearly cost of \$950.00- ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Schriemer and supported by Lohman for 1st reading approval of 8th Grade Science Proposal at a 2010-11 cost of \$17,192.39 with a yearly cost of \$950.00.

Ayes: Emmert, Eldred, Schriemer, Danielson, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.

President Virgil Knowles

Secretary Karen Hill

Date: March 8, 2010