

Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2026 4:00 PM Eastern

Van Buren Conference Center
490 S Paw Paw Street
Lawrence, MI 49064

I. REGULAR MEETING

I.A. Approval of Draft Agenda **(Roll Call Vote)**

I.B. Consent Agenda - **(Roll Call Vote)**

I.B.1. Minutes

The **Regular Meeting** of the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education was held in person on **April 8, 2026**, in the Board of Education office and called to order at **4:00 PM** with all Board members present.

Weiss moved to approve the April 8, 2026, draft agenda as presented. Supported by Makay. Roll call vote. Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss - yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Weiss moved to approve the Consent Agenda (**March, 11, 2026, Minutes, Composite and Summaries**). Supported by Engle. Roll call vote: Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Faul moved to approve the Board and Superintendent Travel for March. Supported by Makay. Roll call vote. Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Approved, Not Yet Attended

Name	Date(s)	Location	Estimated Cost			Sum:
			Conference:	Hotel:	Flights:	
John Faul	4/30/26 - 5/2/26	Lansing MASB Spring Institute	\$625	\$800	N/A	\$1,425

Post Approval

Name	Date(s)	Location	Actual Cost			Sum:
			Conference:	Hotel:	Flights:	
Mary Ann Middaugh	4/9/26 - 4/12/26	NSBA Annual Conference San Antonio, TX	\$715	\$989.40	\$1,173.72	\$2,878.12
Karen Makay			\$715	\$989.40	\$1,084.27	\$2,788.67
John Weiss			\$715	\$1,012.08	\$586.96	\$2,314.04
John Faul			\$715	\$0	\$0	\$715.00
Dave Manson			\$715	\$939.88	\$1,168.35	\$2,823.23
Roger Engle			4/9/26 - 4/13/26	\$715	\$989.41	\$905.11

Board Members’ Updates: Ms. Middaugh praised the Educational Hero Awards banquet where all Van Buren County local districts celebrated two professionals with an award and recognition. She mentioned that Superintendent Manson has done a great job keeping all Board members up to date with events and occurrences.

Superintendent Updates: Superintendent Manson gave an update on the following:

Mr. Manson shared highlights from the Educational Hero Awards held on March 10, 2026, at the VBISD Conference Center. This year’s theme, “Honoring Those Who Create Lasting Waves,” recognized outstanding contributions from staff across Van Buren County. VBISD honorees included Sarita Collins for her work empowering multilingual and migrant families, and Antoinette Vaughn for her dedication to students with severe and multiple disabilities. Additional recognition was given to Erin Rumery, Gina Valela, and Alma Robles,

who were honored by local districts for their leadership, compassion, and commitment to student support and wellbeing.

An overview of the Local District Feedback Survey was shared, with 36 of 72 administrators responding. Programs were rated on a four-star scale, averaging 3.34, indicating strong overall performance while still identifying areas for growth.

Updates on legislation included proposed bills that would limit school funding elections to November and require LETRS training for educators, both of which are still under consideration. The release of the state education budget is anticipated following spring break, with districts closely monitoring developments.

Presentation: Marketing: *The Board received an update from Brittany Millan Torres in Marketing and Communications, highlighting ongoing efforts to strengthen community engagement, visibility, and consistent messaging across VBISD. Updates included growth in social media presence, expanded use of videography and media outreach, continued website improvements with a focus on accessibility, and development of print and promotional materials. Future priorities include expanding digital content, strengthening brand alignment, and increasing overall community awareness.*

The following departments provided updates to the Board and the community:

Van Buren Tech/CTE: *The Board received an update from Career and Technical Education highlighting recent student engagement and program accomplishments, including the annual job fair connecting students with employers, continued progress on the Construction Trades home project, and induction of approximately 130 students into the National Technical Honor Society. Additional updates included Culinary program success at the state ProStart competition, hosting over 1,400 students for 8th grade visits, and recognition of student and staff achievements in Engineering Design through SOLIDWORKS honors.*

Instructional Services: *The Board received an update from Instructional Services highlighting progress across multiple initiatives, including upcoming graduates and continued growth in the Grow Your Own program, expansion of Project SHINE programming, and ongoing literacy and math coaching support across districts. Additional updates included success in Adult Education and Multilingual programs, continued mental health support and family engagement efforts, and expanded out-of-school programming opportunities through grant funding and community partnerships.*

Human Resources: *The Board received a Human Resources update highlighting staff engagement efforts, including the March Into Spring event and participation in professional development through the SWMSBO conference. Ongoing work was also shared regarding development of a structured mentoring program to support employee retention, along with*

continued progress on marketing alignment through the creation of a district-wide communications handbook.

Multilingual: The Board received a Multilingual and Migrant Services update highlighting recognition of staff, family engagement efforts, and ongoing program development, including summer programming, required program evaluation support for districts, and continued professional learning to strengthen services for multilingual and migratory students. Additional updates included staff training, regional collaboration efforts, and expanded supports to improve student access, engagement, and outcomes.

Action Items:

Weiss made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the lease and installation of fuel tanks, fuel management system, administration software, and the installation of a fuel filler area, as described.

Monthly Lease:	\$695 per month, \$1,000 freight & delivery
Fuel Management System:	\$155 per month, \$250 installation
Administration Software:	\$55 per month
*Fuel Filler Area:	\$210,000

*The Fuel Filler Area includes materials, excavation, labor and installation of a reinforced concrete tank bed, posts, fence, and additional electrical for the pumps, lighting, and security cameras.

Supported by Engle. Roll call vote. Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Makay made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves and authorizes the Superintendent, or his designee, to sign, execute, and enter into all necessary documents and the attached agreements as presented.

Supported by Faul. Roll call vote. Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Faul made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the increase of professional staff service for 2026-2027 school year as listed.

- Occupational Therapist: 5 days (SE & EC)
- Special Education Teacher Maple Creek Education Center: 5 days
- School Psychologist/Diagnostic Teacher Consultant: Up to 5 days
- School Social Worker: Up to 5 days
- Speech & Language Pathologist: 3 days
- Physical Therapist: 0.5 days
- School Psychologist Interns Up to 10 days

Supported by Makay. Roll call vote. Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Weiss made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the VBISD Board of Education approves the professional services agreement with GMB Architects for architectural and engineering services related to the Welding Lab Remodel, in an amount not to exceed \$128,325, and authorizes administration to execute all necessary documents to proceed with the Design Development Phase.

Supported by Engle. Roll call vote. Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Faul made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the VBISD Board of Education approves the addition of one custodial support staff position effective April 8, 2026.

Supported by Weiss. Roll call vote. Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Makay made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the VBISD Board of Education approves the non-renewal of non-teaching PSM contract.

Supported by Weiss. Roll call vote. Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Engle made the motion to approve the following resolution:

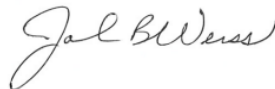
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignations/retirements of the staff listed.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Resignation/Retirement Date</u>
Craig Jeffers, CTE Administrator	Resignation - 04-06-2026
Olivia Adams, BGLC Special Education Teacher	Resignation - 06-09-2026
Kathleen Kroll, Diagnostic Teacher Consultant	Retirement - 06-09-2026
Dana Shepherd, CTC Special Education Teacher	Retirement - 07-01-2026

Supported by Makay. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Makay made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Faul. Voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



John Weiss, Vice President
Van Buren Intermediate School District
Board of Education, Lawrence, Michigan

I.B.2. Composites, Payroll and Imprest Summaries

VAN BUREN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

APRIL 2026

VOUCHERS

Imprest Fund	1,396,527.44
Payroll Fund	4,723,460.64
Purchasing Cards	98,438.31
EduStaff ACH	27,316.74

PAYROLL SUMMARY

General	1,216,126.84
Special Education	2,723,088.79
Vocational Education	784,245.01
Student Activity Fund	-
Total	4,723,460.64

IMPREST VOUCHER SUMMARY

FUND	CHECKS	TRAVEL	PURCHASING	TRFS/SALES	TOTAL
General	833,915.80	12,089.01	51,348.94	(9,787.89)	887,565.86
Special Education	272,013.34	22,048.08	16,130.48	5,479.17	315,671.07
Vocational Education	290,298.30	2,983.83	30,941.79	4,308.72	328,532.64
Student Activity Fund	300.00	-	17.10	-	317.10
Total	1,396,527.44	37,120.92	98,438.31	0.00	1,532,086.67

VAN BUREN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

APRIL 2026

BUDGET TO EXPENDITURE COMPARISON 25-26

FUND	BUDGET	ACTUAL & ENCUMBERED EXPENSES	UNENCUMERED BALANCE	YEAR TO DATE VARIANCE
General	29,500,294	19,489,552	10,010,742	3,864,847
Special Education	49,720,524	32,204,631	17,515,893	7,157,451
Career Tech Education	19,679,979	12,544,764	7,135,215	3,035,219

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

	ENDING BALANCE 03/01/2026	CASH RECEIPTS	CASH DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE 03/31/2026
General	4,412,012	2,693,897	2,318,868	4,787,041
Special Education	6,891,284	23,730,639	13,004,680	17,617,243
Career Tech Education	1,291,464	12,358,998	6,657,716	6,992,746
Student Activity Fund	33,163	151	-	33,314
Total	12,627,922	38,783,685	21,981,264	29,430,344

I.C. Board/Superintendent Travel **(Roll Call Vote)**



Board of Education & Superintendent Travel

Pre-Approval

Name	Date(s)	Location	Estimated Cost			Sum:
			Conference:	Hotel:	Flights:	

Approved, Not Yet Attended

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Upcoming Events and Key Dates Spring 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Board Attendance</i>
4/30	5p-7p	Community Baby Shower	Conference Center	Voluntary ▾
5/4-5/6	All Day	VB Tech Ag Awareness Days	Fairgrounds	Voluntary ▾
5/5	All Day	VB Tech STEM Showcase	VB Tech	Voluntary ▾
5/5	5:30p	Middle College Recognition Night	Conference Center	Voluntary ▾
5/9	All Day	VBISD Hosting CBA Classes	Conference Center	Voluntary ▾
5/12	All Day	VB Tech Mock Disaster	VB Tech	Voluntary ▾
5/14	3:30p-5:00p	Retirement Celebration	Conference Center	Voluntary ▾
5/19	8:30a-2:30p	Board Work Session	VB Tech	Requested ▾
5/20	12:30p	BGLC Graduation	Conference Center	Requested ▾
5/21	1:00p	Maple Creek Talent Show	Maple Creek	Voluntary ▾
5/22	Noon	Stop The Bleed Training	Conference Center	Informational Only ▾
5/27	2:30p-7:00p	CTE - 50 Year Celebration	VB Tech	Voluntary ▾
6/8-6/12	9:30a-2:30p	VB Tech Career Camp	VB Tech	Voluntary ▾

I.E. Public Comments

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

II.A. Board Updates

II.B. Superintendent Update

MEMO



DATE: MAY 6, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: DAVID D. MANSON
RE: SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

****District Highlights: Emergency Management:** (Community Relations, Staff Relations, Instructional Leadership)

The recent power outage provided an opportunity to evaluate both the effectiveness of our emergency response systems and the strength of our team. Notably, staff across the district demonstrated exceptional flexibility, patience, and a strong willingness to support one another wherever needed. For example, the Maintenance & Operations team played a critical role alongside administrators from VB Tech to preserve the culinary program's perishable food, while the Transportation team worked closely with staff at Bert Goens Learning Center to adjust schedules, release buses individually, and ensure students continued to receive the high level of care expected.

The overall success of the response was greatly impacted through the leadership and coordination of the Emergency Management team. This team works closely with all VBISD building teams and their planning, training, and guidance were instrumental in enabling a coordinated and effective response during the outage.

In addition, the Emergency Management team provides support and many trainings for each member school district across the county. For example, since the start of the year, the Emergency Management team has trained more than 3,240 staff members countywide, strengthening preparedness at every level. This impact is particularly worth highlighting given that the team consists of just four individuals, underscoring both their efficiency and their significant contribution to district-wide safety and readiness.

On April 17, 2027, Bob Kirk, the Administrator of Emergency Management presented a summary of services over the past four years to the Superintendent Council. See [VBISD Emergency Management Statistics for Superintendent Meeting - April 2026](#) for details.

General Fund Presentation to Local Districts: (Governance & Board Relations, Community Relations, Business & Finance, Instructional Leadership)

Under the Michigan School Code, local school districts are required to review the Van Buren Intermediate School District (ISD) General Fund Budget and provide input to the ISD Board for the upcoming fiscal year. Each constituent district must formally indicate support or opposition to the proposed budget through board resolution.

On April 17, 2026, Van Buren constituent district superintendents received a presentation on the 2026–2027 ISD General Fund Budget. Local boards are required to complete their review and submit a resolution to the VBISD Board no later than June 1, 2026. This submission may include approval of the budget and/or any specific objections and recommended changes.

If objections or revisions are submitted, the VBISD Board is required to consider these recommendations prior to final adoption of the budget.

The following documents were provided to each superintendent to support this process.

- [General Fund Budget Projection 26-27](#)
- [Sample Board Resolution-VBISD GE Fund](#)
- [VBISD General Fund Budget Narrative 26-27](#)
- [VBISD General Fund Process Memorandum 26-26](#)
- [VBISD General Fund Service Details - 2026-2027](#)

****National School Board Association Annual Conference:** (Governance & Board Relations, Business & Finance, Instructional Leadership)

Mary Ann Middaugh, John Weiss, Karen Makay, Roger Engle and Dave Manson had an opportunity to attend the National School Boards Association Annual Conference from April 10 to April 12 in San Antonio. It was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our relationships while sharing best practices, discussing emerging challenges, and exploring strategies to enhance the effectiveness of public school systems.

There were several highlights throughout the conference, but my three favorites were:

- The Great Equalizer: Building Bridges Through Education Policy & Empathetic Communication by Brandon P. Fleming
- Mariachi Bonito Tech-Alitlan: A Student Performance by San Antonio Independent School District
- Bridging Education and Industry: A District Approach to Workforce Development by Laura Thomson

Overall, the conference offered valuable insights and actionable strategies that can support continued improvement in governance practices and student outcomes. The knowledge and resources gained will help inform ongoing board work and contribute to the district's efforts to provide high-quality education for all students.

Van Buren County Association of School Board (VBCASB) Scholarships:

(Governance & Board Relations, Staff Relations, Community Relations, Business & Finance)

The Van Buren County Association of School Boards is pleased to honor and recognize five (5) high school seniors with a \$500 scholarship funded through the West Michigan Educational Foundation (WMEF). These seniors were selected from the twenty-three (23) applications because they demonstrated an ability to:

- Make a positive impact in the school district and community in which they live
- Volunteer for activities that help the school, students and community
- Serve as a true "team player" in a school setting
- Exhibit an attitude that promotes a positive learning environment that reflects positively on the school district
- Demonstrate sensitivity to the needs of individual students and community members

The Award Winners are:

Isabelle Horvath - Bangor

Madison Lennox - Bangor

Emma Reynolds - Bloomingdale

Abigail Suida - Bloomingdale

Confidential/Surprise - Lawton

II.C. Department Updates

II.C.1. Presentation - Special Education

Alison Lapachelle -

Process Improvement: Center-Based Program Referrals

Process Improvement: Center-Based Program Referrals

Alison Lachapelle, M.S., BCBA
VBISD BOE Meeting, May 6, 2026

About Me



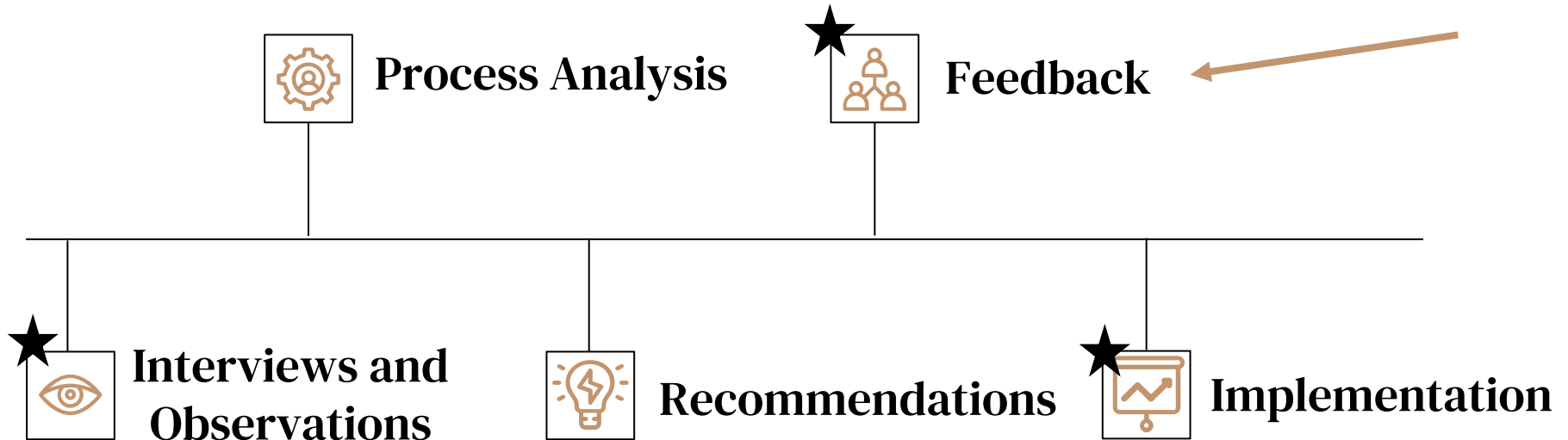
- PhD student at WMU in the Industrial Organizational Behavior Management Program (IOBM)
- Started my career as a special education teacher before becoming a BCBA
- VBISD Process Improvement intern since November



Project Purpose

- To ensure equitable decision making for all students referred to MCEC and/or BGLC
- To increase collaboration and improve rapport between local districts and the ISD
- To increase clarity around placement decision rationale
- To increase legal defensibility of decisions by aligning with LRE principles and legal precedents.

Process Improvement Progression



Process Barriers



Referral



Collaboration



Documentation



Process Awareness

Proposed Solutions



Shift the purpose of the initial referral form



Assign a child study team member as a liason



Increase interdisciplinary meetings



Update information collection procedures



Live and on-demand process training

How Will We Measure Success?



Report Checklist



Expert Agreement



Staff Satisfaction



Questions?

alison.lachapelle@vbisd.org

II.C.2. Finance and Operations

MEMO

DATE: MAY 6, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: REBECCA DEPAS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS
RE: FINANCE & OPERATIONS UPDATE

Budget Season (1, 11, 19)

Over the last month Projected FY 27 Budgets have been started and on Friday April 17, 2026 the FY 27 General Fund Budget was presented to the local superintendents. They are now in possession of the projected budget and are tasked with taking it to their Board of Education for approval. During the presentation I was able to walk through the budget highlighting key areas that have changed over the last fiscal year and answer any questions that the local districts might have.

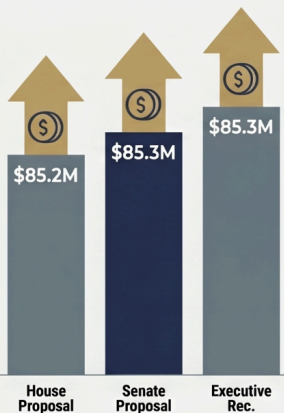
At the state level we are still unsure as to what funding will look like in FY 27. Based on the three budget proposals that have been presented we can rough estimate the following:

FY 2026-27 ISD Budget Impact: Legislative Comparison

Comparing the House, Senate, and Executive budget proposals, highlighting shifting funding formulas and appropriation increases affecting ISD general operations, special education millage equalization, and vocational/literacy initiatives.

CORE OPERATIONAL & SPECIAL EDUCATION SHIFTS

2.5% Increase for ISD General Operations



All three budgets propose increasing Section 81 funding to approximately \$85.3 million.

New Special Education Millage Formula

Formula shifts to 50% taxable value per headcount and 50% per unreimbursed costs.

\$5.0M Expansion for Early On Services

The House proposes a significant \$5 million increase for ISD-led birth-to-three developmental services.

Funding Area	House Proposal	Senate Proposal	Executive Rec.
ISD General Ops (Sec. 81)	\$85.2M	\$85.3M	\$85.3M
Sp. Ed. Millage Equalization	\$89.2M	\$89.2M	\$89.2M
Early On (Sec. 54d)	\$28.6M	\$25.1M	\$25.1M

CATEGORICAL & VOCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

\$30M for CTE Shared Services

New House funding to reimburse ISDs for nonresident student programs and transportation.

Mandatory Literacy Coach Expansion

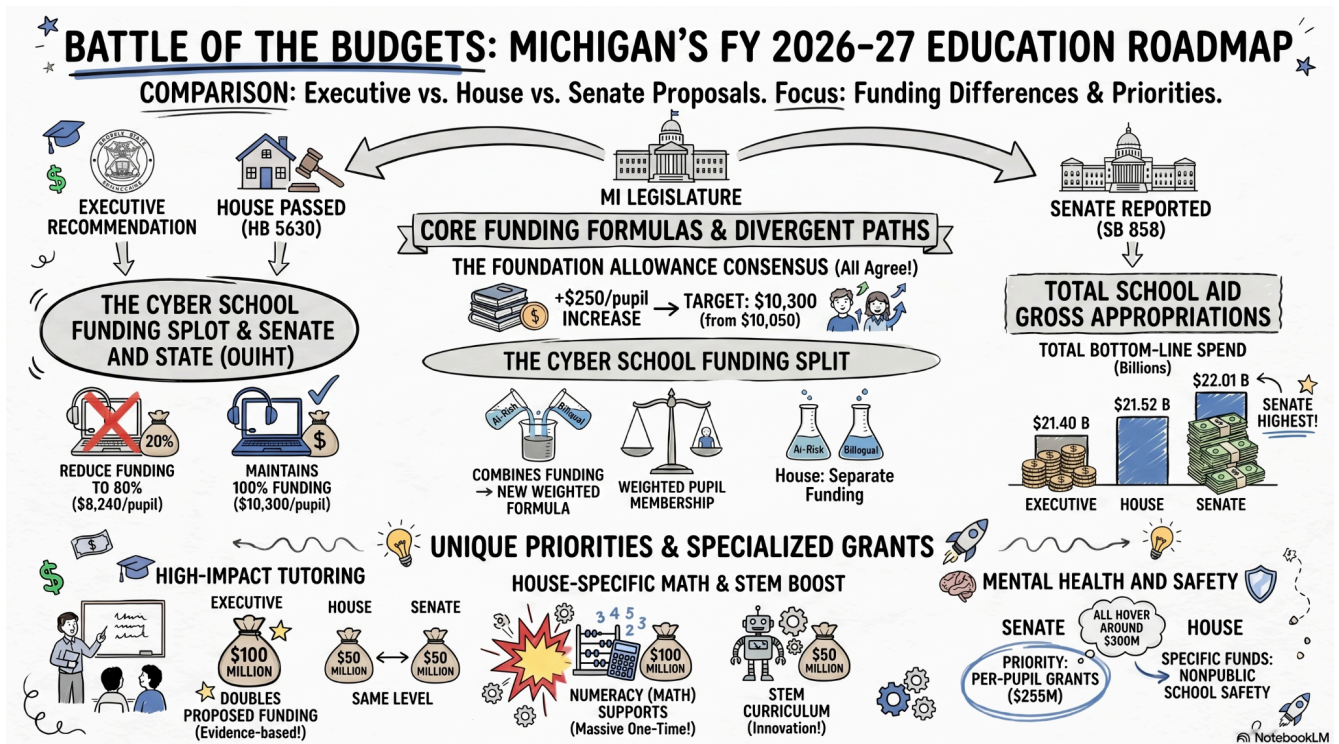
Senate proposal requires each ISD to receive at least one additional literacy coach.

\$16.9M for Early Learning Partnerships

Executive recommendation specifically allocates these funds to ISDs for centralized family access points.

Program	Impact	Funding Source
Math Pathways (Sec. 23h)	\$9M for ISD Specialists	One-time SAF
Literacy Supports (Sec. 38m)	\$150M Ongoing Total	School Aid Fund
Virtual Reality CTE (Sec. 61w)	\$5M Competitive Grants	One-time SAF

- 1) At a minimum a \$250 per pupil increase or 2.5% increase: \$10,300
- 2) Significant increases to 31a and Section 41 - Governor and Senate have weighted funding, House does not.
- 3) No change to 31n6 (mental health clinicians)
- 4) Increase in literacy supports / math supports
- 5) 32p Block Grant funding brought back
- 6) 31aa Funding? - some language changes, but not sure if it accomplishes the goal
- 7) Slight MPSERS rate decrease
- 8) 147 Funding - 8% decrease to 147a, 15% increase to 147e
- 9) Continues funding for Higher Education



Public Employer Medical Plan Cost Limitation (2, 10, 13, 19)

The Michigan Department of Treasury recently announced the medical benefit plan annual cost limitations for the year 2027 as established by MCL 15.563, as last amended by 2018 Public Act 477. This law limits the amount public employers may contribute to a medical benefit plan. The limits for 2027 increased by 3.0% percent from 2026. The limits are as follows:

- Single person coverage: \$8,180.35
- Individual and spouse coverage: \$17,107.66
- Full family coverage: \$22,310.11

II.C.3. Special Education

MEMO

DATE: MAY 6, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: MONICA MANSFIELD, DIRECTOR
RE: SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE



***PAC Awards**

Leadership, Level of Professional Awareness, Faculty & Staff Personnel, Communications, Resourcefulness, Creativity and Innovativeness

The Van Buren County Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) continues its annual tradition of recognizing individuals who make meaningful contributions to the education and success of students with disabilities. This year, the PAC received 47 nominations representing staff across the county who go above and beyond in support of students.

From these nominations, 21 recipients have been selected for the Excellence in Education Awards. In a creative effort to build anticipation, the PAC has delivered recognition signs to all schools with nominated staff members. Award recipients will be announced over the coming weeks through surprise visits, where the PAC will present each honoree with their award.



***VB Applied Skills Hub**

Leadership, Level of Professional Awareness, Communication Skills, Planner and Organizer, Student Personnel, Community Relations, Setting Instructional Outcomes

The VB Applied Skills Hub is a new, county-wide program designed to expand post-secondary transition services for students with disabilities across Van Buren County. This initiative is being developed as a strategic shift toward a more comprehensive, locally supported model that provides a full continuum. All districts will have access to this programming, however, this will be especially meaningful for the smaller districts that may not otherwise be able to support this type of programming.

Lawrence Public Schools has taken a leadership role in launching this program, creating an opportunity to extend the continuum of services for students with disabilities while partnering closely with VBISD. This collaboration supports the growth of local programming while maintaining strong intermediate district support.

The program focuses on preparing students for life beyond high school through a combination of classroom instruction and real-world, community-based experiences. Instruction is centered on six key areas of transition:

- Daily Living and Personal Management
- Health and Wellness
- Community Navigation and Safety
- Financial Literacy
- Workplace Readiness
- Social Skills and Self-Advocacy

Students will build practical, transferable skills that promote independence, community participation, and employment readiness.

***Special Education Department Statistics for 2025-2026**

Leadership, Level of Professional Awareness, Communication Skills, Planner and Organizer, Supervisor, Evaluator, Student Personnel, Coherent Instruction and Determination of Resources

- 311** Initial Evaluations Conducted
- 113** Formal Requests for Observation & Consultation Services: AAC/AT, BRIDGE, VI, DHH, Professional Support Services (Professional Learning and Technical Assistance)
- 104** FBA/PBSP Held
- 71** Students Attending BGLC
- 83** Students Attending CTC
- 43** Students Attending MCEC
- 2576** Students with Disabilities Served

Students with Disabilities Being Served as of October 1, 2025

	CI	EI	HI	VI	PI	SLI	ECDD	LD	SXI	AI	TBI	OHI	Total
Bangor	7	4	0	1	0	28	8	34	0	9	1	21	113
Bloomingtondale	9	6	2	0	0	52	11	42	0	12	1	35	170
Covert	4	0	0	0	0	2	4	22	0	2	0	7	41
Decatur	5	3	0	0	0	17	3	54	0	6	0	17	105
Gobles	5	9	0	1	0	37	6	33	0	10	0	20	121
Hartford	14	2	1	1	0	28	12	62	0	18	0	28	166
Lawrence	3	4	1	0	0	18	3	25	0	7	0	11	72
Lawton	7	4	0	0	1	33	10	55	0	8	1	30	149
Mattawan	22	6	8	3	1	78	13	97	0	40	0	105	373
Paw Paw	5	8	2	2	0	82	10	94	0	35	0	60	298
South Haven	16	6	3	0	0	64	18	76	0	29	3	50	265
Wood School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
MOS	23	23	1	1	3	28	3	105	0	27	1	42	257
VBISD	54	22	3	1	0	116	74	8	23	94	3	47	445
Total	174	97	21	10	5	583	175	708	23	297	10	473	2576

2026 Annual School Bus ROAD-EO

Leadership, Level of Professional Awareness, Faculty & Staff Personnel, School Plant & Facilities, Community Relations



The VBISD Transportation Department, under the leadership of Terry Lechenet, hosted the 2026 Annual School Bus ROAD-EO. This event provides an opportunity for drivers to demonstrate their expertise through a series of challenges focused on safety, precision, and knowledge, including a written assessment, obstacle navigation, tight turns, simulated passenger stops, and safety inspections. In addition to serving as a competitive event, the ROAD-EO reinforces best practices and highlights driver excellence.

A total of 46 drivers participated in this year's event. Van Buren ISD earned top honors as the Region 15 Team winner. Congratulations to Jessie Goodrode for a 1st place finish and Mike Kelly for placing 4th. Both drivers have qualified to represent the region at the State ROAD-EO in June.

II.C.4. Technology Services

MEMO

DATE: MAY 6, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: DAMIAN KOOB
RE: TECHNOLOGY SERVICES BOARD REPORT

***MACUL (Michigan Association of Computer User Learners) Conference (Leadership, Professional Awareness, Professional Preparation)**

On March 19th and 20th, I was accompanied by a team of seven Technology Services staff members to the annual MACUL conference in Grand Rapids. The MACUL conference is a fantastic venue for K-12 educators to attend more than 200 sessions discussing technology from classrooms to District-wide solutions. I attended a few sessions on AI governance and network security, as well as vendor product highlights with the latest technologies. This has always been a great venue to do some networking with folks in other Districts and ISDs and I enjoyed the conversations and learned quite a bit! I would like to thank the Board and Mr. Manson for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference and bring along my team for some great professional development and networking opportunities.



***MSBO (Michigan School Business Officials) Annual Conference (Leadership, Professional Awareness, Communication Skills, Professional Preparation)**

Lukas Enciso and I attended the annual Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) conference held at the DeVos Place/Amway Grand Hotel on April 22nd and 23rd. My focus for this year's conference was on AI policies and cybersecurity. I also try and attend all the legal updates in the technology realm at this conference as well, which I was able to attend on the Freedom of Information Act. Another great session I attended was on Data Privacy and Security. This session was a review on the best practices and strategies to manage the risk of data sharing agreements. Outside of the sessions, the networking opportunities with folks from other ISDs and districts was great. It is always nice to see what other districts are implementing with their staff. I would like to thank the Board for allowing Lukas and myself the opportunity to attend this conference for the professional development and networking opportunities.



II.C.5. Early Childhood



MEMO

DATE: MAY 6, 2026

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: SUSAN REYNOLDS, DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

RE: EARLY CHILDHOOD UPDATE

Early Childhood Department Focus Areas

1. Increase inclusive opportunities with appropriate supports
 2. Reduce barriers for families
 3. Promote collaboration & efficiencies across the department
 4. Strengthen community engagement with an equity focus
-

May Focus: LEAD-K Law, MiLEAP Visit & One Book, One County

Leadership, Level of Professional Awareness, Professional Standards & Ethics, Communication Skills, Resourcefulness, Creativity & Innovativeness, Policy Implementer, Community Relations, Fiscal Management, Setting Instructional Outcomes, Coherent Instruction and Determination of Resources, Establishing a Culture for Learning, Student Achievement

Lead-K Law Overview

In December 2022, Michigan enacted the Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) law (Public Act 256), establishing a statewide commitment to ensuring that children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) develop strong language foundations during the critical early years of life. The law applies to children from birth through age five and is grounded in the understanding that early language acquisition is essential for later academic success, literacy development, and overall well-being.



The purpose of LEAD-K is to address the significant risk of language deprivation among children who are DHH. Research highlighted in the state guidance indicates that a large percentage of these children experience delays in language development, which can have long-term impacts on reading proficiency, learning, and social-emotional outcomes if not addressed early. By

focusing on the earliest years, the law aims to ensure that all children enter kindergarten with the language skills necessary to access instruction and succeed.

The legislation outlines three primary components:

- **Development of parent resources** to support families in understanding and promoting their child’s language development
- **Identification and use of approved assessment tools** to monitor language and communication growth
- **Annual reporting of language and literacy outcomes** for children who are DHH to ensure accountability and continuous improvement

Additionally, LEAD-K emphasizes a collaborative service model in which both teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and speech-language pathologists work together to support each child’s communication development and access to learning. This dual approach ensures that both language acquisition and educational access are addressed in a coordinated and comprehensive way.

Overall, the LEAD-K law represents an important step forward in ensuring equitable access to language and learning for young children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, setting a strong foundation for lifelong success.

LEAD-K Grant Collaboration with KRESA

Leadership, Level of Professional Awareness, Professional Standards & Ethics, Communication Skills, Resourcefulness, Creativity & Innovativeness, Policy Implementer, Community Relations, Fiscal Management, Setting Instructional Outcomes, Coherent Instruction and Determination of Resources, Establishing a Culture for Learning, Student Achievement



Van Buren ISD is partnering with Kalamazoo RESA (KRESA) to implement Michigan’s LEAD-K (Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids) initiative. This work reflects a shared regional commitment to improving early language and literacy outcomes for children from birth to age five.

KRESA was awarded a \$55,000 LEAD-K grant through the Michigan Department of Education, with VBISD serving as a collaborating partner in the planning and implementation of grant activities. Together, our ISDs are using this opportunity to build capacity across Van Buren and Kalamazoo counties, as well as neighboring regions, through coordinated professional learning, shared resources, and expanded family engagement.

The collaborative plan focuses on three key areas aligned to LEAD-K requirements:

- **Assessment and Data Collection:** Implementation of state-approved language and communication assessments to monitor growth and inform instruction for children who are DHH.
- **Professional Learning and Instructional Capacity:** Joint training opportunities for educators and service providers, including language development, early literacy, and communication strategies. These opportunities are designed to serve staff across multiple counties, maximizing regional impact.
- **Family Engagement and Access:** Expansion of accessible learning opportunities for families, including American Sign Language (ASL) classes, parent education, and community-based events that support early language development.

In addition, the partnership emphasizes inclusive, community-based approaches by engaging families, educators, and Deaf mentors in shared learning experiences. Planned activities will reach approximately 100 families, staff, and professionals across the region, increasing awareness and access to high-quality early language supports.



This collaboration strengthens VBISD’s commitment to early intervention and equitable access by aligning our practices with state guidance and leveraging regional partnerships to improve outcomes for young children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

LEAD-K in action at VBISD

Leadership, Level of Professional Awareness, Professional Standards & Ethics, Communication Skills, Resourcefulness, Creativity & Innovativeness, Policy Implementer, Community Relations, Fiscal Management, Setting Instructional Outcomes, Coherent Instruction and Determination of Resources, Establishing a Culture for Learning, Student Achievement

VBISD has already begun putting LEAD-K into action through direct supports for children, families, and staff. Recent efforts include:

- Purchasing books and materials for families to help create language-rich home environments.
- Purchasing assessment tools that align with the reporting and progress monitoring requirements of LEAD-K.
- Sending staff from both VBISD and KRESA to the National EHD (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) Conference in Jacksonville, Florida, to deepen knowledge and strengthen services for children ages birth to five who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

- Providing training and collaboration between DHH staff and Early On staff to strengthen partnerships between departments and support kindergarten readiness for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

VBISD and KRESA are also in the planning stages of a joint family engagement event for Van Buren and Kalamazoo families. The proposed literacy and language picnic, tentatively scheduled for August 13, 2026, will provide families with learning opportunities, resources, and a chance to connect with other families raising children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

MiLEAP Visits VBSID Early Childhood

Leadership, Level of Professional Awareness, Professional Standards & Ethics, Communication Skills, Resourcefulness, Creativity & Innovativeness, Personality, Professional Preparation, Decision Maker, Planner & Organizer, Supervisor, Evaluator, Policy Implementer, Faculty & Staff Personnel, School Plant & Facilities, Student Personnel, Community Relations, Fiscal Management, Setting Instructional Outcomes, Coherent Instruction and Determination of Resources, Establishing a Culture for Learning, Student Achievement

VBISD's Early Childhood Department was honored to host representatives from the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) for an on-site visit highlighting our PreK for All implementation. State leaders Dawn Kalkman and Brandi Fisher requested the opportunity to visit Van Buren ISD specifically to observe our work in action and learn more about how VBISD is delivering high-quality early learning opportunities for children and families.

Our GSRP leadership team, including Mechele Brower, Heidi Anson, and our Early Childhood Specialists, planned a full day of visits across the county that showcased both school-based GSRP classrooms and a GSRP program located within a Community Based Organization (CBO). Ms. Kalkman and Ms. Fisher observed GSRP instruction at Covert Elementary, Learn & Grow in Hartford, and the Paw Paw Early Childhood Center, along with visits to ECSE classrooms in both the West Hub and Central Hub. Throughout the day, they experienced morning meeting routines, small group instruction, outdoor learning, read alouds, snack routines, and classroom environments where children with varying needs learn and grow together.

Most importantly, the visit highlighted the outstanding work of VBISD early childhood educators. MiLEAP representatives were highly complimentary of the quality of our GSRP programming, noting the strong instructional practices, engaging classroom environments, purposeful routines, and meaningful interactions taking place throughout the day. Their feedback affirmed that VBISD is leading the way with our high-quality preschool programming.



This recognition is a direct reflection of the professionalism, dedication, and expertise of our staff across Van Buren County. From classroom teachers and support staff, to supervisors and administrators, our team continues to create high-quality early learning experiences that are being noticed at the state level.

We are proud of the way our educators represented VBISD and grateful for the opportunity to share the impactful work happening every day in our early childhood programs.



Van Buren Reads! One Book, One County

Leadership, Level of Professional Awareness, Professional Standards & Ethics, Communication Skills, Resourcefulness, Creativity & Innovativeness, Personality, Professional Preparation, Decision Maker, Planner & Organizer, Supervisor, Evaluator, Policy Implementer, Faculty & Staff Personnel, School Plant & Facilities, Student Personnel, Community Relations, Fiscal Management, Setting Instructional Outcomes, Coherent Instruction and Determination of Resources, Establishing a Culture for Learning, Student Achievement

VBISD's Great Start Collaborative is proud to initiate our first "community-wide read", Van Buren Reads! One Book, One County. This shared reading experience is designed to bring children, families, schools, and communities together by reading the same book at the same time and engaging in literacy activities. This initiative brings together partners from across the county and includes local libraries, schools, child care, and other organizations.

This first featured book is *Whatever Comes Tomorrow* by Rebecca Gardyn Levington and illustrated by Mariona Cabassa. Classrooms and families have the opportunity to read the book together while exploring themes of resilience, hope, and navigating new experiences. Children are able to follow along with the author as she graciously recorded herself reading the book to Van Buren Children. The recording is available on the Paw Paw District Library's YouTube channel, [here](#).

To support all families in our community, the bilingual version of the book was selected. Having the book available in both English and Spanish helps expand access for families, builds empathy, and celebrates the linguistic diversity of our county. This bilingual format allows more families to read together, build language skills, and fully participate in the countywide experience.

Through Van Buren Reads! One Book, One County, families were able to receive the featured book to keep. Programs such as VBISD's Parents as Teachers Home Visitors, Early On, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), and GSRP placed books directly into the hands of families. They reinforce literacy activities through their regular work with children and caregivers. Additional books were distributed through partners such as Head Start classrooms, Early Head Start, private preschools, and child care providers. Anyone in the community, while supplies last, could pick up a copy of the book from the libraries that serve Van Buren County including Paw Paw District Library, Van Buren District Library (7 locations), Hartford Public Library, Lawton Public Library, and South Haven Memorial Library.

Finally, Van Buren Reads! One Book, One County has provided unique literacy activities to promote this shared experience. Activities include a pajama and butterfly themed family storytime, a Story Stroll where children can "stroll" along a nature walk reading the book and following suggested activity prompts, and sharing the book with friends and neighbors by picking up free copies at all the library locations. We have heard that the book has made its way

to a counselor's waiting room, and a grandmother bought additional copies and sent them to her grandchildren out of state.

In all 1,600 books were distributed! This initiative has been an exciting opportunity to promote regular reading at home, strengthen family engagement, and increase access to books and literacy resources across our communities.

We are proud to be part of an initiative that promotes reading, connection, and a love of learning across Van Buren County.



VAN BUREN READS!

One Book, One County

Our community came together to celebrate the power of reading and connection through *Pase lo que pase mañana (Whatever Comes Tomorrow)* by Rebecca Gardyn Levington.











THANK YOU

to everyone who joined us for storytime, activities, and meaningful conversations.

Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community—one book at a time. ❤️

Join the author as she reads to Van Buren Children!



www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwg_YEHKw54

Van Buren READS! 2026 was made possible by a grant from MILEAP a department of the State of Michigan.



This book is available FREE at your local library in Van Buren County while supplies last.

A big Thank You to Rebecca G. Levington & ill. Mariona Cabassa for sharing this book with the children of our community.

¡Acompaña a la autora mientras les lee a los niños de Van Buren!



www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwg_YEHKw54

Van Buren LEE! 2026 fue posible gracias a una subvención de MILEAP, un departamento del Estado de Michigan.

Help Me Grow Van Buren



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Muchas gracias a: Rebecca G. Levington y a la ilustradora Mariona Cabassa por compartir este libro con los niños de nuestra comunidad.



Help Me Grow Van Buren



III. ACTION ITEMS



Van Buren Intermediate School District

Respect • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

David D. Manson
Superintendent

DATE: May 6, 2026
TO: All Employees of the Van Buren Intermediate School District and the Community
FROM: Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education
SUBJECT: Educator Appreciation Week – PROCLAMATION

The Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education proudly recognizes the week of May 4, 2026, as Educator Appreciation Week.

During this time, we take a moment to acknowledge the dedication, care, and commitment our educators bring to their work each and every day. Their impact on students goes far beyond the classroom, shaping futures and strengthening our entire community.

Our educators consistently go above and beyond, giving their time, energy, and heart to support, inspire, and educate. Through their efforts, they help carry forward the district's mission of providing educational services for a better tomorrow.

The Board of Education extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation for the meaningful and lasting difference our educators make in the lives of students, families, and colleagues.

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education, do hereby proclaim and honor the week of May 4, 2026, as Educator Appreciation Week, and encourage our entire community to join us in recognizing and celebrating our outstanding educators.

The Van Buren Intermediate School District does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex (including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth, or a related condition), age, height, weight, familial status, marital status, military service, veteran status, genetic information, disability, or any other legally protected characteristic. It prohibits unlawful discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, in any educational program or activity it operates, including admissions and employment.

Inquiries regarding unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment and retaliation, should be directed to the designated Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, HR Administrator, 490 S. Paw Paw Street, Lawrence MI 49064, 269-539-5439, hr@vbisd.org, and/or to an agency with jurisdiction, such as the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the Department of Justice.

III.A. Approval of Educator Appreciation Week Proclamation (**Roll Call
Vote**)



Van Buren Intermediate School District

Respect • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

David D. Manson
Superintendent

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III.B. Approval of Owner/Construction Manager, Architect, Civil
Engineering, and General Conditions Agreements (**Roll Call Vote**)

Date: May 6, 2026

To: VBISD Board of Education

From: Dave Manson, Superintendent

Subject: Approval of Owner/Construction Manager, Architect, Civil Engineering, and General Conditions Agreements

VBISD is currently engaged in multiple construction projects involving construction managers, architects, and civil engineers. Each project has its own timeline and requires specific agreements and supporting documentation for approval. These projects include:

- VB Tech Welding Remodel – GMB (Architect), GDK (Construction Manager)
- Learning Center Pool Renovation – GMB (Architect)
- Bright Futures Building and Renovation – TowerPinkster (Architect), OAK (Construction Manager)
- Corwin Meadows Road Extension – Driesenga (Civil Engineer)
- VB Tech Electrical Gear Project – TowerPinkster (Architect), OAK (Construction Manager)

Given the number of projects and the need to execute documents in a timely manner, it would be most efficient to authorize the Superintendent, or his designee, to sign and execute the necessary project-related documents. This authorization does not extend to the approval of expenditures that require separate Board approval.

RESOLVED, that the VBISD Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, or his designee, to sign, execute, and enter into all necessary documents related to the projects listed above.

III.C. Approval for the Replacement of Roof Membrane at VBTech (**Roll Call
Vote**)

MEMO

DATE: MAY 6, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: DAVID JOHNSON, FACILITIES & OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATOR
RE: APPROVAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF ROOF MEMBRANE

The Van Buren ISD recently solicited competitive bids to replace the roof membrane over Auto, Welding/Advanced Manufacturing and the HVAC mechanical penthouse.

The TPO roofing over these sections of the building have a 20 year warranty and will begin to fail around 25 years. The current roof membranes are reaching 30 years old. We are finding leaks that will lead to the insulation getting saturated and needing to be completely replaced. The bids below include removal and replacement of the roofing membrane as well as a square footage cost to replace any insulation that is found to be saturated or damaged.

The Division 7 roofing bid of \$79,860 was the lowest received; however, during post-bid interviews it was determined that the bid did not encompass the full scope of the project. The submission was limited to the Auto Bay area only. Due to the incomplete nature of the bid, there was insufficient information to properly evaluate its competitiveness, and as a result, it was not considered for award.

We received six (6) bids that were opened on April 27th, 2026. After reviewing the proposals, it is recommended that the Van Buren ISD accept the bid from Lyster Exteriors in the amount of \$152,610 with an insulation square footage replacement cost of \$2.75.

COMPANY	BASE BID	SqFt
Lyster Exteriors	\$152,610	\$2.75
Division 7	\$79,860	\$3.50
Superior Services	\$184,300	\$2.50
Hoekstra Roofing	\$244,500	\$5.00
Tek-Pro Roofing	\$266,000	\$2.60
Great Lakes Systems	\$466,935	\$3.55

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the base bid from Lyster Exteriors in the amount of \$152,610 with the additional cost of any necessary insulation replacement at \$2.75 per square foot.

III.D. Approval for the Construction of the Transportation Fueling
Station (**Roll Call Vote**)

MEMO

DATE: MAY 6, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: DAVID JOHNSON
FACILITIES & OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATOR
RE: APPROVAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION
FUELING STATION

The Van Buren ISD recently solicited competitive bids to have a fueling station built in the space east of the Transportation building.

Crystal Flash is closing their fueling station in Lawrence leaving us with limited options to fuel buses and ISD vehicles. The closest option is the exit for Decatur or the Shell station in Mattawan. This option would involve additional labor, miles on our vehicles and additional fuel costs.

The site includes tanks provided, set and piped by Crystal Flash.

The work in the bid request includes the following:

- A concrete slab reinforced with wire mesh and rebar. 6” concrete filled posts will be installed around the perimeter of the gas and diesel tanks for protection from vehicles.
- 8’ tall security fencing around both the gas and diesel tanks with gates for access to pumps and equipment.
- Conduit and wiring from an existing breaker panel near the bus canopy to both new tank and pump locations. The new electrical installation would connect to pumps, a card swipe system and new lighting.

We received bids that were opened on May 5, 2026. After reviewing the proposals, it is recommended that the Van Buren ISD accept the bid from Charlie Weeden Inc., Hi Tech Electric, and Executive Fence and Gate for a total of \$212,571.

COMPANY	Discipline	BASE BID
Charlie Weeden Inc	Concrete	\$170,000
Hi Tech Electric	Electrical	\$31,520
Executive Fence and Gate	Fencing and gates	\$11,051
	TOTAL	\$212,571

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the bids from Charlie Weeden Inc., Hi Tech Electric and Executive Fencing in the total amount of \$212,571 for the construction of the Van Buren ISD fueling station.

III.E. Approval of New Staff Employment (**Voice Vote**)

MEMO

DATE: MAY 6, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: BRITANI OLDS, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR
RE: APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT OF NEW STAFF

BACKGROUND

Following is a list of new staff, their position, salary and start date. Copies of resumes are attached.

<u>New Employee</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Mike Mamouzellos, Auto Tech Light Maintenance Instructor	\$46,948.00	04/06/2026
Caiyla Felty, School Social Worker	\$51,137.00	05/04/2026

**Salary may be prorated based on start date*

RECOMMENDATION

Resolved that the Board of Education approve the employment of the staff listed above.

III.F. Approval of Staff Resignations and Retirements **(Voice Vote)**

MEMO

DATE: MAY 6, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: BRITANI OLDS, ADMINISTRATOR FOR HUMAN RESOURCES
RE: STAFF RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

BACKGROUND

Following is a list of retirements and resignations. Copies of letters are attached.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Resignation/Retirement Date</u>
William Nelson, Resource Room Teacher	Retirement - 06/30/2026
Karen Adams, Teacher Consultant	Retirement - 06/30/2026
Karen Ryder, Teacher Consultant	Retirement - 06/30/2026
Rebecca DePas, Director, Finance & Operations	Resignation - 06/30/2026

RECOMMENDATION

Resolved that the Board of Education accept the retirements of the staff listed above.

Attachments

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

IV.A. Adjournment

IV.A.1. Motion to Adjourn Meeting (**Voice Vote**)