

Proposed Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 12, 2011

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President Van Sickler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the commons.

Members present: Drumm, Freeman, Keyes, McNerney, Palmer, Ryckman, Van Sickler

Members absent: none

Administrators present: Beal, Hubbard, Weaver

Administrators absent: none

Visitors present: Jessica Wawersik, RuthAnn Thayer, Jon King, Katie King, Sharon Davis, Amy McQueen, Rhonda Freeman, Danielle Wright, Dan Wright, Connie Marshall, Susan Hansen, Charlotte Davis, Jody Zinn, Brian Zinn, Dianne Mitchell, Matt Walderzak, Ruthann Fairchild, Bryan Young, Shelly Young, Teresa Hammond, Jody Johnston Vissman, Kathy Gates, Barbra Alexander, Helen Conklin, Larry Koutz, Lisa Donley

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to approve the agenda as presented

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Recognition of Guests: none

Questions on Building Reports

Mr. Van Sickler thanked Mrs. Smith and all of the musicians in both music programs.

Mr. Beal talked to the board about the food service report and the number of meals served between last year and this year.

Communications

Mrs. Vissman introduced the Elementary Student Council. These students work very hard for the elementary school.

Mrs. Berry's 5th grade class presented to the board their Native American projects.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held November 14, 2011 as presented.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Motion by Freeman, support by Palmer to approve the minutes of the Special meeting held November 14, 2011 as presented.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

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Treasurer's Report- December

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to approve bills as monies become available.
Motion CARRIED 7-0

Consent Agenda

- A. FMLA
 - 1. Beverly Stratton
- B. Resignation
 - 1. Rosie Davis
- C. Hire
 - 1. Kurt Peasley – Middle School Girls Basketball Coach
 - 2. Hal Clark – Middle School Girls Basketball Coach
 - 3. Kim Whitney – Update Advisor

Motion by McNerney, support by Palmer to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Motion CARRIED 7-0

New Business

Adopt Neola Policies contained in packets 25.2 & 26.1

Motion by Freeman, support by Keyes to approve the Neola Policies as presented.
Motion CARRIED 7-0

NHS trip to NYC

High School Principal Hubbard gave the board an itinerary of the National Honor Society trip to New York City. Mr. Hubbard brought up the fact that these students will miss school and knows that the board's feelings about the kids missing school. Mr. Hubbard pointed out that this is the NHS group and they are the best of the best and it will be an educational trip. Van Sickler asked if those kids will be able to make up their college classes and career center classes. Hubbard stated that they would be able to make up work. It was cheaper to go on the dates listed, plus if they waited for spring break the softball players would not be able to go.

Motion by Freeman, support by Palmer to approve the NHS trip to NYC.
Motion CARRIED 7-0

New Course Adoption: Links

Hubbard explained to the board the Links Program. The Links Program is specifically designed to help students with autism. The district has 26 students that are involved in the Links program by helping other students that have autism. Right now the program is completely voluntary. This program would give those students a chance to earn credit for this while working with this program. Hubbard introduced Ruthann Thayer teacher consultant from the ISD. Mrs. Thayer thanked the school board for moving forward with this program. She also presented Jon King and Jacob Young with a certificate for the work that they have already done with a student at Vestaburg.

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They have not only helped him academically but also socially. Mrs. Susan Hansen explained to the board how the program would work in the school district and how it would be facilitated. Freeman commended the students that have stepped up and helped the students with special needs.

Mr. Hubbard thanked Mrs. Hansen for her leadership role with this program.

Motion by McNerney, support by Ryckman to approve the Links Program for credit.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

1 to 1 computer pilot 2012-2013

Beal explained to the board the 1 to 1 computer pilot for 2012-2013. Mr. Beal has formed a committee of teachers that he would like to work with the tablet and the students. Those teachers will be given a tablet in January so they will have the rest of the semester to work with it and become more proficient with the tablet by the time school begins in the fall. The kids are given a tablet in those grade levels in the fall. Beal believes that this is something the district needs to do to stay ahead of the learning curve. If the district keeps doing things the way they have always been done, we will be left behind. Ryckman questioned how Central Montcalm's pilot turned out. Initially the pilot program is not going to eliminate textbooks, but it could save paper. Beal is meeting the largest vendor for the tablet program next week. Beal would like the boards blessing to move forward with the program and setting aside money in the budget for this program.

Beal stated that he believes you will see the MEAP disappear and come back in electronic form for more real time testing.

McNerney questioned what you are going to do if you invest money into this program but the teachers are not interested in teaching this way.

Beal stated he would like teachers that are very motivated and excited to learn something new and teach in a new way because they will be the leaders for the rest of the staff.

Hubbard stated that textbooks are no longer the curriculum. There is a movement away from the textbook. Hubbard believes this is what the district has been saying for the last ten years in being proactive and moving forward with technology.

Beal would like to purchase the tablets through a lease program. Money would need to be budgeted to cover the cost of the tablets around \$35,000.00 with \$15,000.00 covered by grant monies.

Beal stated this is a new method of teaching and learning.

McNerney stated yes it is an expense, but I also look at it as an investment.

Motion by Ryckman, support by Freeman to move forward with the 1 to 1 computer pilot program.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Athletic Director Salary

Beal stated that every year the Athletic Director schedule changes. Last year he was 60% teacher and 40% athletic director. This year he is 80% teacher and 40% athletic director.

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Beal stated he is not been paid for extra teaching duties. Walderzak would be paid additional compensation appropriate to the course load he is carrying.

Motion by McNerney, support by Freeman to pay Matt Walderzak as an 80% teacher for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Executive Session – Personnel

(P.A. 1976 Amended by Act. No 256 of 1978, per 15.268, Section 8, paragraph a.)

Motion by Freeman, support by Keyes to enter executive session at 8:03 p.m.

Roll call: Drumm – yes, Freeman – yes, Keyes – yes, McNerney – yes, Palmer – yes, Ryckman – yes, Van Sickler - yes

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Motion by McNerney, support by Palmer to re-enter regular session at 8:30 p.m.

Roll call: Drumm – yes, Freeman – yes, Keyes – yes, McNerney – yes, Palmer – yes, Ryckman – yes, Van Sickler - yes

Motion CARRIED: 7-0

Motion by Freeman, support by McNerney to approve the settlement agreement between Vestaburg Community School and the teacher hired on 12-13-99

Roll call: Drumm – yes, Freeman – yes, Keyes – yes, McNerney – yes, Palmer – yes, Ryckman – yes, Van Sickler - yes

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Other Business: none

Old Business: none

Items for Discussion

Board Policy 3122.01

Beal read the policy to the board. Freeman would like the term “under the influence of” added to this policy. This will be brought back to the board in January.

Employee actions at school sponsored events

Beal stated that we represent the school whether we are coming as a staff member or as a parent. The board would like the superintendent to look into this more. Beal will meet with administration on what this professional aspect will look like.

Coaching Handbook/ Parent involvement

Walderzak talked to the board about proper communication between parents and coaches. The coach’s handbook is a board approved document. Walderzak stated this is not pointing fingers at anyone. Text and email messages are hard to read the emotion in them. Walderzak stated that this is not the way we will communicate. The form he

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presented to the board is a guideline for coaches to use in a parent meeting before the season starts on how to communicate with the coaches.

Legislative Update: Bullying Legislation (HB4163), Even Year November Legislation, PPT
Beal discussed the Bullying legislation. The administration has set up a committee and a plan must be in place within 6 months.

November legislation passed. The elections will go back to even year elections. Beal is working on a scenario so that there will not be 4 people up for election at one time.

Work in Progress: none

Recognition of Guests

Barb Alexander, 9776 Howard City Edmore Rd., Vestaburg - thanked the board for the time that they put into the school district. Alexander stated that whether you are a teacher, support staff or board member you should still represent yourself professionally. The kids are watching and talking sometimes even before the adults do. The students do know what is going on outside of school.

Items for next Board Meeting January 9, 2012.

Board Policy 3122.01

Motion by Freeman, support by Ryckman to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

Karen S. Grover
Recording Secretary