

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
May 13, 2024 - 7:00 PM  
Vicksburg High School - Library  
501 E. Highway St  
Vicksburg, MI 49097**

**M I N U T E S**

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**Members Present:** Ron Centofanti, Tina Forsyth, Carol Lohman, David Schriemer, Stephanie Willoughby and Virgil Knowles

**Members Absent:** Dan Grabowski

**Board Secretary:** Amy Manchester

**Administrators Present:** Keevin O'Neill, Steve Goss, Gail VanDaff, Adam Brush, Matt Hawkins, Allison Dygert, Amie McCaw, Sarah Bacalia, Joe Werkema, Dewey Waterman, Jessica Ponton-Wheeler, Mike Barwegen, Sarah Dyer, Karen McKinstry

**Guests Present:** Lisa Coe, Kelly MacDonnel, Michelle Wester, Amy Green, Laura Chang, the CTE Outstanding Senior students and their parents

President Knowles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Recognitions**

Supt. O'Neill started the meeting by recognizing and expressing his appreciation to the staff of Vicksburg Community Schools.

**1. 2023-24 Outstanding Senior Awards - Adam Brush**

HS Principal Brush recognized and introduced the 2024 outstanding CTE Award Winners.

Also recognized were the following:

YWCA Woman of Achievement Award – Clara Centofanti

Principal Leadership and DAR Good Citizen of the Year – Megan Burke

**B. Legislative Update**

Supt. O'Neill reported that the Budget is the main topic of conversation in Lansing. May 17th is the Estimated Revenue Conference. Senate Bills 741, 742, 743 which proposes that each school has a Library by the 25-26 school year. It will be a problem to find enough certified staff to cover these libraries. HB5649 proposes all high schools offer a required course in Computer Science.

**C. Important Dates**

Supt. O'Neill directed the Board to the listing of important dates including the Leader in Me Day at Sunset Lake Elementary, Cabaret, upcoming choir and band concerts and 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduations. The VHS graduation is on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and the last day of school is June 7<sup>th</sup>

**II. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY**

- A. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss  
Asst. Supt. Goss presented the General Fund Monthly Budget Progress Report for April, 2024 showing total revenues of \$ 25,903,243; total expenditures of \$25,619,350; and revenues over expenditures of \$283,893.
- B. Investment Portfolio Update - Steve Goss  
Asst. Supt. Goss gave an update on the District's investment accounts.
- C. Bond Sale - Steve Goss  
Asst. Goss gave an update on the Bond closing. The district received 10 bids. The bond rate is 4.06%. The district rating has been upgraded to A+ which he believes helped with the rate offer.
- D. Kalamazoo RESA 2024-2025 General Education Fund Budget Resolution - Steve Goss  
Asst. Supt. Goss shared the 2024-25 KRESA General Ed Fund Budget. He stated that there is a resolution for approval under Board Action which is required by law.
- E. Request for Approval to Set June 10, 2024 for the Annual Public Hearing to Consider the District's Proposed 2024-2025 Budget - Steve Goss  
Asst. Supt. Goss requested that the Board set June 10, 2024 as the Annual Public Hearing for the District's Proposed 2024-25 Budget and the Amendment for the current school year.
- F. Transportation Annual Report - Karen McKinstry  
Transportation Director, Karen McKinstry, presented her department's annual report. She shared that even with a challenging year, they never had to cancel a route. This is National Transportation Safety Week and students will be conducting drills before and after school. The Safety Carnival is August 15<sup>th</sup> this year. They received a perfect inspection again this year, thanks to Allen Reynolds. The old underground tanks were removed and smaller above ground tanks were installed this school year.
- G. Dairy Bid from Cedar Crest Farms for the 2024-25 School Year - Sarah Dyer  
School Nutrition Director Sarah Dyer, is recommending VCS accept Cedar Crest Dairy's bid as it was less than Prairie Farms bid. She reported that the cost of milk has gone up 55% since Covid.
- H. Curriculum Proposals - Gail Van Daff  
Curriculum Director, Gail Van Daff, introduced the teacher leaders who are presenting information on new the curriculum proposals.  
Jenny Johnson and Amy McIechy presented information on the proposed BK Core Resource Curriculum.  
Amy Green, Amy Stauffer and Sharon Blough presented information on the K-5 Math Intervention curriculum  
Michelle Wester and Kelly MacDonell presented information on the new K-5 ELA proposal.

The teachers answered questions from the Board regarding the materials and the process used for choosing the new curriculum. Gail Van Daff explained that it is a two year process from start to finish with listing needs, wants, and then doing research on different curriculum options.

III. AUDIENCE

IV. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

A. Approval of the Following Board Meeting Minutes

1. April 8, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. April 30, 2024 - Special Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Centofanti.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of General Fund Invoices Totaling \$473,136.57 - ROLL CALL VOTE:

A motion for approval was made by Forsyth supported by Schriemer.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

C. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements for March 2024 Totaling \$120,533.66 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Willoughby.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

D. Approval to set June 10, 2024 for the Annual Public Hearing to Consider the District's Proposed 2024-25 Budget: A motion for approval was made with Schriemer and supported by Willoughby.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

E. Approval of resolution to ratify the sale of the 2024 Building and Site Bonds, Series III (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax) to USB Financial Services, Inc - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Centofanti.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

F. Approval of Diary Bid from Cedar Crest Farms in the Amount of \$97,869 for the 2024-25 School Year - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Centofanti and supported by Forsyth.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

G. Approval of Resolution for Local District Vote on KRESA General Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 School Year - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Willoughby and supported by Schriemer.

Ayes: Centofanti, Forsyth, Lohman, Schriemer, Willoughby

Abstain: Knowles

Motion carried.

H. Approval of VHS Senate Field Trip to Cedar Point on May 31, 2024: A motion for approval was by Willoughby and approved by Lohman.

Motion carried unanimously.

- I. 1st Reading Approval of the Following Curriculum Proposals - ROLL CALL  
VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Willoughby.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
  - 1. BK Core Resource
  - 2. K-5 Math Intervention
  - 3. K-5 ELA Core Resource
- J. Approval of the Retirement of Middle School Teacher, Donna Cubbage - 23  
Years of Service: A motion for approval was made by Centofanti and  
supported by Forsyth.  
Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

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President Virgil Knowles  
June 10, 2024

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Secretary Amy Manchester