

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
August 14, 2023 - 7:00 PM  
Vicksburg Administration Building  
Vicksburg, MI**

**MINUTES**

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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, Joe Werkema, Amie McCaw, Sarah Bacalia, Sarah Dyer, Jessica Wheeler, Alyssa Thompson, Mike Barwegen

**Guests Present:** Lisa Coe, Kelly MacDonell, Johnna Leger, Bill Leger, Rick Burmeister, Kristen Burmeister, Cal Richmond, Alicia Richmond, Heather Zemitans, Dave Zemitans, Laura Heckelman, Cassie Byers, Adrian McClelland, Jeremy Town, Nick Zantjer, James Bippus, Jessica Cooper, Dana Ames

President Knowles called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

I. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Pre-Service Update

Supt. O’Neill announced that the staff pre-service is August 21<sup>st</sup>. All staff are invited to attend breakfast and the opener in the PAC.

B. Staffing Update

Supt. O’Neill provided an update on staffing for the upcoming school year.

C. Important Dates

Supt. O’Neill directed the Board to the listing of important dates including the first day of school and the Community Tailgate.

II. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY

A. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss presented the monthly budget progress report for month ending July 2023 showing total revenue of \$154,585; total expenditures of \$461,811 and a deficit of revenue over expenditures of \$(307,226).

B. Investment Holdings Update - Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss gave an update on the district’s investments.

III. AUDIENCE

Bill Leger addressed the Board regarding an incident that occurred in a restroom at an elementary school.

Rick Burmeister expressed his concerns regarding the use of preferred gender restrooms.

Heather Zemitans also expressed her concerns regarding biological boys using girls restrooms and locker rooms based on their gender preference.

Jessica Cooper spoke about how she is afraid to have her child attend a school where biological boys are allowed to use the girls restroom.

After audience comments, President Knowles read the following VCS Statement:

*First, please note that Vicksburg Community Schools and school officials will not answer questions about specific students because the disclosure of personally identifiable information about a student violates the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and state law. Second, the District recognizes that providing students with a safe and supportive educational environment is of the utmost importance. The District's policies prohibit discrimination, bullying, and harassment on the basis of sex, which includes sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition to following its policies, it is equally important that the District complies with federal, state, and local laws and guidance, and legal precedent related to unlawful discrimination, bullying, and harassment.*

*State and federal law and guidance, and current binding case law in Michigan all require public schools to allow all students, including transgender students, to use the restroom that corresponds with their gender identity OR to use single-user restrooms, whichever the student chooses. If a student prefers to use a single-occupancy restroom, we ask our students to let an administrator know and arrangements will be made. Regardless of gender identity, VCS expects that any individual using a restroom will respect the privacy of everyone else using the restroom and will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. If not, the student will be held accountable according to VCS discipline policy.*

*As a school community, we are obligated to create a safe and welcoming school climate, supervise it appropriately, and clearly articulate expectations about acceptable behaviors. We are also required to address allegations of unlawful bullying, harassment, or discrimination, and will continue to do so.*

#### IV. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

##### A. Approval of the following Board Meeting Minutes

1. July 10, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Willoughby.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. August 1, 2023 - Work Session Minutes: A motion for approval was made by Schriemer and supported by Forsyth.

Motion carried unanimously.

- ##### B. Approval of General Fund Invoices for the month ending July 2023, Totaling \$321,828.14 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Centofanti.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

- C. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements for June 2023, Totaling 63,281.31-  
ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported  
by Lohman.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- D. Approval to Ratify the Labor Agreement between the Board of Education of  
Vicksburg Community Schools and the Vicksburg Education Association for  
the 2023-24 and 2024-25 School Years - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for  
approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Willoughby.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- E. Approval of the Following Teacher Contracts Upon Results of State and  
Federal Record and Unprofessional Conduct Checks: A motion for approval  
was made by Lohman and supported by Willoughby.  
Motion carried unanimously.
1. Allison Brussee - Elementary Behavioral Specialist
  2. Triston Lee - Sunset Lake - Physical Education
  3. Matthew Musialczyk - VMS - English/Science
  4. Michelle Turczyn - Sunset Lake - 5th Grade
  5. Melissa Wilcox - Tobey - 3rd Grade
- F. Approval of the Following Teacher Resignations: A motion of approval was  
made by Lohman and supported by Willoughby.  
Motion carried unanimously.
1. Emma Kinn
  2. Kristen Kite
  3. Sarah Pease
- G. Approval of Reinstatement of Expelled Student 2022-23A on a Behavior  
Contract - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and  
supported by Lohman.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- H. 2nd Reading Approval of VCS Policies 2623 and 8400 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A  
motion for approval was made by Centofanti and supported by Lohman.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 7:34pm.

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President Virgil Knowles  
September 11, 2023

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Secretary Amy Manchester