

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACTION  
TO REDUCE COSTS FOR SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the Vicksburg Community Schools Board of Education takes seriously it's responsibility to control costs in order to preserve as many high quality learning supports and opportunities as possible for our students.

**WHEREAS**, the following points illustrate the Board's long-term commitment to cost control:

- Vicksburg teachers pay over 20% of health insurance premiums, and have paid at least that amount since 2004. Other employee groups pay a smaller percentage of the premium as a result of seeking less expensive coverage through the Western Michigan Health Insurance Pool.
- Vicksburg's Food Service program is totally self-sustaining and receives no General Fund support; it has done so for at least 25 years.
- Custodial staff has become much more efficient, and their members have been reduced by 20% over the last five years.
- Teaching staff have been reduced by more than the percent of pupil reduction, as our Middle and High Schools have adopted more efficient master schedules.
- Administrative and administrative support staff has been reduced by 22% over the past seven years.
- All employee groups have formulas in place in contracts which limit or adjust salary growth based on changes in funding levels.
- Instituted a hard-cap on insurance costs as contracts expire.
- A service consolidated plan was filed in 2010 and updated in 2011.
- All substitute teachers and non-faculty coaches are hired through a third-party provider, as are several administrative staff.
- Gasoline and natural gas future prices are monitored and prices locked in when deemed most advantageous.
- Shared instructional services through count-wide programs, including Education for Employment (EFE), Education for the Arts (EFA), and the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center (KAMSC).
- Participation in regional purchasing cooperatives for acquisition of technology, buses, school supplies.

**WHEREAS**, In light of the recent historic reduction in per-pupil funding, the Vicksburg Community Schools needs your help to further reduce costs in order to fully serve and support our students.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Vicksburg Community Schools strongly urges that you support the following proposed legislative initiatives, many of which are totally under the control of the legislature, which will help our district and others state-wide to reduce and control costs.

- Implement MPSERS reform, particularly on the medical benefits side, which could immediately reduce the rate we are charged. In addition, a move to a defined contribution plan would limit future obligations.

- Attach a state-wide hard-cap to the 80/20 insurance cost-sharing bill. An actual dollar limit creates conditions for insureds to consider the most cost-effective options. Additionally, naming districts state-wide the policy-holder would immediately open doors across the state to real cost-comparison.
- Approve House Bills 4625, 4626, 4627, and 4628, which modify the Michigan Tenure Act, the Public Employment Relations Act, and the School Code; these changes are urgently needed. The proposed bills protect teachers from arbitrary dismissal for frivolous and arbitrary reasons while ensuring all students have access to quality teachers. They also remove inappropriate personnel decisions from the bargaining table.
- Work to identify, prevent, and relieve from schools the burdens of unfunded mandates and unproductive and costly requirements.

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the above Resolution at a Regular Meeting of the Vicksburg Community Schools Board of Education on June 13, 2011.

Ayes  
Nays  
Absent  
Abstain

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary Karen Hill

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date