

Regular Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2022
7:00 PM

Vicksburg High School - PAC
501 E Hwy St
Vicksburg, Michigan 49097

**Vicksburg Community Schools
Board of Education
MINUTES**

Members Present: Jennifer Buikema, Tina Forsyth, Carol Lohman, Dan Grabowski, Stephanie Willoughby and Virgil Knowles

Members Absent: David Schriemer

Board Secretary Amy Manchester

Admins Present: Keevin O'Neill, Steve Goss, Gail VanDaff, Tim Fuller, Adam Brush, Matt Hawkins, Sarah Bacalia, Mike Barwegen, Nancy Spicketts, Mike Roy, Rick Place, Alyssa Thompson, and Jessica Wheeler

Guests Present: Lisa Coe, Kelly MacDonell, Cherie Allen, Saleem Ismail, Beth O'Roark, April Wilson, John Eiler, Lisa Newman, Christina Flick, Allyson Husen, Adrian McClelland, Garrett Kaltenbach, DJ Kalee, Stephanie Mazurski, Cassie Byers

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

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I.A. Approval of Virgil Knowles as Temporary Chairperson to Convene this Meeting through Action Item IV A. 1: Election of Officers: A motion was made by Forsyth and supported by Grabowski. Motion carried unanimously.

I.B. School Board Recognition – Supt. O'Neill recognized the VCS School Board for January's National School Board Month. He thanked the Board for their support and dedication to the students of Vicksburg Schools.

I.C. NIAAA Bruce D. Whitehead Distinguished Service Award Recipient Mike Roy

I.D. Legislative Update

I.E. Important Dates – Supt. O'Neill referred to the listing of important dates. Indian Lake's (sledding) Hill of Hope will open tomorrow. Final exams start next week at the high school.

II. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY

II.A. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss presented the budget progress report for month ending December 2021 showing total revenues of \$9,429,454; total expenditures of \$12,848,927 and deficiency of revenues of expenditures of \$(3,419,473).

II.B. Operating Millage Renewal – A Special Election will be scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Millage has been in effect since Proposal A in 1994. This is a non-homestead millage renewal.

II.C. VHS Annual Report - Adam Brush

Principal Brush and Asst. Principal Hawkins presented the Vicksburg High School Annual Report which highlighted student activities, data, and recognitions.

III. AUDIENCE

Garrett Kaltenbach addressed the Board with questions regarding substitute teachers and the use of paraprofessionals in Vicksburg. He also asked about spring conferences.

DJ Kalee addressed the Board regarding bullying and hate crimes on the playground and asked where the district is with the investigation. Both of his children have been in classrooms that have had outbreaks.

Stephanie Mazurski thanked the board for the parental choice on masks. She also had questions regarding the ESSER III funds. She doesn't understand why vaccinated students aren't quarantined at this time.

Cassie Byers questioned why vaccinated students are not being quarantined. She is frustrated by the amount of times her child has been quarantined for being a close contact.

Kelly MacDonell thanked the administration and VAB staff for their open communication regarding COVID-19 and evolving procedures. The VEA appreciates the ESSER survey.

April Wilson feels the current COVID-19 protocols are concerning. Vaccinated individuals can catch and spread COVID. She feels the protocols need to be changed and that unvaccinated students are not being treated fairly. She would like the policies changed.

John Eiler had questions about the snow day on Thursday. He questioned why the mask mandate was allowed to expire. He asked the Board to admit that the COVID-19 protocols are political. If a mask reduces spread, it's simple and easy, why don't you do it?

Christina Flick disagrees with the District's Test to Stay and the blatant discrimination against the unvaccinated. She questions if the Board is tracking the data for non-vaccinated vs. vaccinated Covid-19 positive students.

Allison addressed the Board regarding the CDC Guidance for COVID-19 prevention. She is very much in favor of a mask mandate in all schools.

Before Board Action on the organization of the 21-22 school board, it was suggested a committee be formed to consider how the board could build a better succession plan.

IV. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

IV.A. Organization of the 2021-22 School Board

IV.A.1. Election of Officers

IV.A.1.a. President - Virgil Knowles

IV.A.1.b. Vice President - Carol Lohman

IV.A.2. Appointment of Officers

IV.A.2.a. Treasurer - Stephen Goss

IV.A.2.b. Secretary - Amy Manchester

A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

IV.B. Approval of the following Board Meeting Minutes

IV.B.1. December 13, 2021 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Lohman and supported by Grabowski. Motion carried unanimously.

IV.B.2. January 7, 2022 - Special Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Forsyth and supported by Grabowski. Motion carried unanimously.

IV.C. Approval of General Fund Invoices Totaling \$319,680.74 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Buikema and supported by Forsyth. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

IV.D. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements for November Totaling \$111,548.63 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

IV.E. Approval of Resolution Regarding Operating Millage Renewal –ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Lohman and supported by Grabowski. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

IV.F. Approval of Board committee recommendation to deny reinstatement of expelled student 2017-18A. A motion was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth. Motion carried unanimously.

IV.G. 1st Reading Approval of VCS Policy 8450.06 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Buikema and supported by Forsyth. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

IV.H. 2nd Reading Approval of VCS Policies 0100, 6152, 8310, 8320 – ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

With no further business to come before the board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:39 pm.

Board President Virgil Knowles

Board Secretary Amy Manchester

February 14, 2022