

**Vicksburg Community Schools**  
**Board of Education**  
**February 8, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**  
<https://youtu.be/8ZFoA-4k2yw>  
**MINUTES**

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

Members Absent: None

Board Secretary Amy Manchester

Administrators Present: Keevin O'Neill, Stephen Goss, Gail Van Daff, Adam Brush, Matt Hawkins, Matt Van Dussen, Dennis Kirby, Amie McCaw, Ruth Hook, Mike Barwegen, Don Puckett, Rick Place, Sarah Dyer, Nancy Spicketts, Karen McKinstry

**I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**II. Recognitions**

**A. Pathways Graduation**

Supt. O'Neill recognized the five Pathways winter graduates. Pathways staff delivered diplomas to students with the Big Read Machine.

**B. New Teacher Introductions**

Principal Brush introduced new HS Math Teacher, Nick Foley and Principal Van Dussen introduced new MS ELA Teacher, Megan Lynn.

**C. Transportation Inspection**

Supt. O'Neill congratulated the VCS Transportation Department on achieving a Pass Rate of 95% or high for School Bus Safety Inspections from the Michigan State Police for the 2019-2020 school year.

**III. Legislative Update**

The Student advisory council appointed by Gov Whitmer is to provide perspective on the need for learning recovery programs for students who have had negative impacts from COVID-related interruptions in their learning.

HB 4048 passed the House and incentivizes a return to in-person learning by allocating \$250 per pupil to districts that commit to reopening by February 15<sup>th</sup>. It is currently contingent on passage of HB 4049, a bill proposing that decisions about potential closures of K-12 schools and sports be given over to local health departments rather than being controlled (as is currently being done) by MDHHS and Governor Whitmer. Both MASA and MASB greatly oppose HB 4049.

**IV. Important Dates**

Supt. O'Neill directed the Board to the document in the packet listing important upcoming dates.

**V. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY**

**A. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss**

Asst. Supt. Goss presented the monthly budget progress report for January, 2021 showing revenues of \$12,575,903; total expenditures of \$ 13,579,499 and deficiency of revenues over expenditures of \$(1,003,596).

**B. Bond Update**

Bid packages are included in the packet for Board action. These are for construction bids for work being done at the administration building this summer including masonry work, window replacement, and flooring upgrades.

**C. School Bus Purchase**

The District would like to buy six buses at the cost of \$535,000 using the same state aid note program used in past years. With assistance from Thrun Law, the District will solicit bids from banks across the state.

- VI. VMS Annual Report - Matt Van Dussen  
Principal Van Dussen presented the VMS Annual Report to the board including highlights from the past year, student data, and staff and student recognitions.
- VII. Reconfirmation of Extended Continuity of Learning Plan (ECOL) Hearing  
COVID positivity is 5.3% in Kalamazoo County, twenty-eight day downward trend.  
There were no public comments on the ECOL. The two-way interaction rate was 97.19%. Due to current interaction rates, the administration recommends no changes to the current learning plan.
- VIII. Audience  
Rachel King called to share good news regarding her student's grant application.
- IX. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED
- A. Approval of the January 11, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and support by Forsyth.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Approval of General Fund Invoices Totaling \$294,392.94 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval Lohman was made by and supported by Grabowski.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- C. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements for December 2020 Totaling \$58,119.52 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- D. Approval of Extended Continuity Plan (ECOL) Reconfirmation - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Schriemer and supported by Buikema.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- E. Approval to Ratify the 2020-21 Letter of Agreement Between the Board of Education of Vicksburg Community Schools and the Vicksburg Education Association - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Schriemer.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- F. Approval to Ratify the Financial Opener between the Board of Education of Vicksburg Community Schools and the Vicksburg Education Support Personnel Association for the 2020-2021 school year - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Buikema.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- G. Approval to ratify the Financial Opener between the Board of Education of Vicksburg Community Schools and the Vicksburg Paraprofessional Association for the 2020-2021 school year - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Buikema and supported by Willoughby.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- H. Approval to award the following construction bids, to be funded with proceeds from the 2020 Building and Site Bonds - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- Bid package 3.3 Earley & Associates, \$39,100
  - Bid package 4.2 Davenport Masonry, Inc. \$140,400
  - Bid package 5.2 OIK Industries, \$19,565
  - Bid package 7.2 Fowler Interiors, \$7,504
  - Bid package 8.5 Architectural Glass & Metals, Inc., \$264,686
  - Bid package 9.6 Great Lakes Flooring, \$8,660

- Bid package 9.9 West Michigan Painting, \$17,955
- I. Approval of the following Teacher Contracts Upon results of State and Federal Records and Unprofessional Conduct Checks: A motion for approval was made by Willoughby and supported by Buikema.  
Motion carried unanimously.
  1. Megan Lynn - VMS Language Arts, MA Step 8
  2. Nick Foley - VHS Math Teacher, BA Step 1
- J. Approval of Revision to the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation (VCSF) ByLaws - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Schriemer.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

With no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8: 25 p.m.

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President Virgil Knowles  
March 8, 2021

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Secretary Amy Manchester