

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education**  
**January 13, 2020 – Vicksburg High School Library – 7:00 pm**  
**MINUTES**

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Members Present: Wil Emmert, Dan Grabowski, David Schriemer, Tina Forsyth, Rudy Callen, Carol Lohman, and Virgil Knowles

Members Absent: Rudy Callen

Board Secretary Amy Manchester

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

Guests Present: Shawn Parshall, Steve Thomas, Lisa Coe, Sue Moore, Rachel and Joe King, Dan Ouelette, Jennifer Teall, Katlyn and Sean Thayer, Elizabeth Barber, Jennifer Buikema, VHS Equestrian Team

**I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Approval of Virgil Knowles as Temporary Chairperson to Convene this Meeting through Action Item III. A. 1: Election of Officers: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. School Board Recognition Month – Supt O'Neill recognized our wonderful school board and expressed his appreciation for their support and all they do for the district.
- C. Equestrian Team – Mike Roy  
Introduced Equestrian Head Coach Mike Fleetwood who introduced his Team, who were the 2019 State Champions. He and the team answered questions from the Board.
- D. County Enhancement Millage Renewal –  
Supt. O'Neill reminded the Board that the County Enhancement Millage Renewal will be on the May Ballot. A resolution of support is included with the packet. KRESA collects the tax and 100% of funds are distributed back to the districts in Kalamazoo County.
- E. Legislative Update – News appears to be more promising than in the past with increases in funding to schools including: \$7 million for isolated districts, \$10 million in school safety grants, \$31.5 million for early literacy coaches, and \$35 million for charter school foundation allowance increases.
- F. Important Dates – Supt. O'Neill reviewed important upcoming dates and reminded the Board about the Pathways Graduation on February 6, 2020.

**II. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY**

- A. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss  
Asst. Supt. presented the monthly progress report for December 2019 which showed total revenue of \$9,034,155; and total expenditures of \$10,786,447 and a deficiency of revenue over expenditures of \$(1,752,292).

1. Bond Update – Asst. Supt. Goss discussed the resolution approving the application for qualification under the Michigan School Bond Loan Fund, which will enable the school district to take advantage of the States strong credit rating. The Treasury stated the application was complete and they didn't anticipate any problem with the district receiving qualified status.
- B. Curriculum Report - Gail VanDaff  
Curriculum Director Gail VanDaff introduced teachers Rachel King and Jennifer Teall who presented the following proposals:
  1. VHS Leadership Course Proposal - Rachel King  
HS Teacher, Rachel King gave background information on the Leadership Course proposal. It all started with the AIM Higher program. This is a national Leadership organization and will allow the students more opportunities.
  2. Seal of Biliteracy Proposal - Jennifer Teall  
Jennifer Teall stated they are piloting the program now with 8 students and would like to continue and offer it to all students. This is a certification that proves students are functional in a second language—a Seal of Biliteracy.
- C. Continuing Excellence - Adam Brush  
Principal Brush and Asst. Principal Hawkins presented the VHS Annual Report which included information on awards and recognitions the high school has received this year. They also provided student data and an overview of programs. They reported the Social Emotional Learning PD has made a very positive impact.
- D. Audience  
Katlyn and Sean Thayer addressed the Board about a student issue. President Knowles suggested they schedule a meeting with Administration.

### III. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

- A. Organization of the 2019-20 School Board: A motion was made by Emmert and supported by Forsyth to elect Virgil Knowles as President, Carol Lohman as Vice President and to appoint Stephen Goss as Treasurer and Amy Manchester as Secretary.  
Motion carried unanimously.
  1. Election of Officers
    - a. President
    - b. Vice-President
  2. Appointment of Officers Wil/Tina
    - a. Treasurer - Stephen Goss
    - b. Secretary - Amy Manchester
- B. Approval of the following Board Meeting Minutes: A motion for approval was made by Emmert and supported by Lohman.  
Motion carried unanimously.
  1. December 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

- C. Approval of the Following General Fund Invoices Totaling \$334,323.36 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.  
Ayes: Emmert, Grabowski, Schriemer, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callen  
Abstain: None  
Motion carried unanimously.
1. December 1-31, 2019 (checks) = \$275,548.13
  2. December 1-31, 2019 (wire transfers) = \$58,775.23
- D. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements Totaling \$177,054.78 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.  
Ayes: Emmert, Grabowski, Schriemer, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callen  
Abstain: None  
Motion carried unanimously.
- E. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Approval of the Following Curriculum Proposals – ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.  
Ayes: Emmert, Grabowski, Schriemer, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callen  
Abstain: None  
Motion carried unanimously.
1. VHS Leadership Course
  2. Seal of Biliteracy
- F. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Approval of the Following Policy - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman.  
Ayes: Emmert, Grabowski, Schriemer, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callen  
Abstain: None  
Motion carried unanimously.
1. PO 5460 - Graduation Requirements
- G. Approval of Enhancement Millage Resolution - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Schriemer and supported by Emmert.  
Ayes: Emmert, Grabowski, Schriemer, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callen  
Abstain: None  
Motion carried unanimously.
- H. Approval of resolution to apply for a preliminary qualification of bonds by the State Treasurer for the purpose of financing school construction - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion was made by Forsyth and supported by Grabowski.  
Ayes: Emmert, Grabowski, Schriemer, Forsyth, Lohman, and Knowles  
Nays: None  
Absent: Callen

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

- I. Approval of the Resignation of IL Teacher April Zapata effective June 12, 2020: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth. Motion carried unanimously.
- J. Approval of Reinstatement of Student 2018-19D on a Behavior Contract: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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President Virgil Knowles  
February 10, 2020

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Secretary Amy Manchester