

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 14, 2020
7:00 PM
<https://youtu.be/At-QmWZAtuE>
Minutes**

Members Present: Wil Emmert, Dan Grabowski, David Schriemer, 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 Van Dussen, Amie McCaw, Ruth Hook, Mike Barwegen, Don Puckett, Rick Place, Sarah Dyer

Guests Present: Tiffany Stacey, Michael Foster, Dustin Morris, Hugh Thiel, Kim Parsons, Amber Cousins, Shannon Reed, Jay Bennett, Nikki Taplin

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

President Knowles brought the meeting to order by recognizing Board Member, Wil Emmert, who is ending his term on the VCS Board after 27 years.

The VHS Chamber Singers and the VMS 6th grade choir directed by Dustin Morris performed Christmas Carols which were shared with the Board as is the tradition for the December meeting.

A. VCS New Teachers - Hugh Thiel (VMS), Kim Parsons (TY), Amber Cousins (SL), Shannon Reed (VMS), Jay Bennett (VMS/VHS), and Nikki Taplin (SL)
Supt. O'Neill welcomed the new 2020-21 VCS teachers. They were introduced by their building principals.

II. Legislative Update

Supt. O'Neill shared updates from the Legislature including HB 4342 that will amend the school code for 2020-21 school year only to allow people with a HS diploma to work as substitute teachers.

A HB 5497 was introduced stating recent retirees will be allowed to fill critical needs for this year only.

SB 1246 will allow virtual meetings to continue through the Open Meetings Act. The Kalamazoo Health Department announced they do have vaccinations available and will start rolling out the plan for administering the vaccine in the county.

III. Important Dates

Supt. O'Neill referred to the listing of important dates included in the packet.

IV. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY

V. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss presented the Budget Progress Report for the month ending November, 2020 showing total revenues of \$7,411,707; total expenditures of \$8,310,142 and deficiency of revenues over expenditures of \$(898,435).

A. June 30, 2020 Audit Presentation - Plante & Moran

Michael Foster and Tiffany Stacey presented a Summary of Audit Results. The District was issued an unmodified opinion on VCS financial statements. There was no non-compliance on how bond dollars were spent. The District is a low risk auditee with no findings or questioned costs noted.

- VI. Bond Update
Asst. Supt. Goss provided an update on the Bid Packages before the Board for approval. The low bidder for each project is recommended.
- VII. Reconfirmation of Extended Continuity of Learning Plan (ECOL) Hearing
 - A. Informational Report/Recommendation
Supt. O'Neill explained the metrics which are included in the memo from the Kalamazoo Health Department. Health officials continue to monitor the situation for the local school districts. At this time, the positivity rate in Kalamazoo County is 10.3%. The District two-way communication rate is over 90%. Currently, the recommendation is to continue with our normal educational schedule and return to school on January 4, 2021.
 - B. Public Comment Regarding ECOL
There were no comments from the public regarding the ECOL plan.
- VIII. Audience – No one wished to address the Board on a non agenda item.
- IX. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED
- X. Approval of the November 9, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes: A motion for approval was made by Emmert and supported by Lohman.
Motion carried unanimously.
- XI. Approval of General Fund Invoices Totaling \$876,736.11 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- XII. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements for October 2020 Totaling \$150,574.21 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Buikema and supported by Forsyth.
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- XIII. Approval of Extended Continuity of Learning (ECOL) Reconfirmation/Recommendation - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Emmert.
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- XIV. Approval to Award the Following Bid Packages, to be Paid Using Proceeds from the 2020 Bond Issue - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Schriemer and supported by Forsyth.
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
 - A. 23.0A and 23.0B to Kalamazoo Mechanical, Inc. at a total cost of \$803,010.
 - B. 26.1A to Kalamazoo Electrical, Inc. at a total cost of \$22,647.
 - C. 26.1B and 26.1C to Hi-Tech Electrical Company at a total cost of \$182,500.
- XV. 1st Reading Approval of the Following Policy - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Emmert and supported by Lohman.
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
 - A. PO 8450.05 - Emergency Temporary Telecommuting Policy

- XVI. Approval of Retirement for Middle School Teacher Patty Stoll, effective December 11, 2020 - 30 Years of Service: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.
Motion carried unanimously.
- XVII. Approval of the Following Teacher Contract Upon Results of State and Federal Record and Unprofessional Conduct Checks: A motion for approval was made by Schriemer and supported by Buikema.
Motion carried unanimously.
 - A. Amber Cousins - 3rd grade at Sunset Lake Elementary, BA Step 1
 - B. Jay Bennett – VMS Music Instruction, BA Step 1
 - C. Nikki Taplin – Begindergarten Teacher at Sunset Lake Elementary, BA Step
- XVIII. Approval of FMLA Requests for the following Sunset Lake Elementary Teachers:
 - A. Kyle Baker - 1st Grade Teacher for twelve weeks to begin approximately January 27, 2021 and Kristina Newhouse - 1st/2nd Grade Teacher for twelve weeks to begin approximately January 8, 2021: A motion for approval was made by Buikema and supported by Grabowski.
Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm.

President Virgil Knowles
January 11, 2021

Secretary Amy Manchester