

Vicksburg Community Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
Monday, February 14, 2022 7:00 PM

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

## **Minutes**

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

Members Absent: Dan Grabowski

Board Secretary Amy Manchester

Administrators Present: Adam Brush, Matt Hawkins, Mike Barwegen, Sarah Bacalia, Sarah Dyer, Karen McKinstry, Gail Van Daff, Rick Place, Amie McCaw, Rick Place, Jessica Wheeler-Ponton, Dennis Kirby, and Allison Dygert

Guests Present: Lisa Coe, Kelly MacDonell, Saleem Ismail, Natalie Mason, Bill Dygert, Julie Koeman, Kari Garman

President Knowles called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

#### I.A. Recognitions

Supt. O'Neill introduced new Middle School Principal Allison Dygert, who comes to Vicksburg from Constantine where she was principal at Riverside Elementary. Allison was previously an employee at VCS for many years, starting as an intern teacher with Amie McCaw.

#### I.B. Legislative Update

The Governor's proposal includes \$580 million towards foundation allowance which is a 5% overall increase. The state proposes \$450 million investment in new teacher recruiting and a billion in teacher retention bonuses. Supt. O'Neill is hoping for a July 1<sup>st</sup> adoption date and high revenue growth. The highlight of the budget are the layers of money. It's an ambitious proposal.

#### I.C. Important Dates

Supt. O'Neill directed the trustees to the list of important upcoming dates including band concerts and musicals starting in March.

### II. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY

#### II.A. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss presented the budget progress report for month ending January 31, 2022 showing total revenues of \$12,466,115; total expenditures of \$15,082,668 and deficiency of revenues over expenditures of \$(2,616,553).

## II.B. Series II Bond Authorizing Resolution

Asst. Supt. Goss discussed the request for the authorizing resolution to issue the Series II of the bonds. As interest rates rise, the district is trying to move it along as quickly as possible. The bond sale would be March 31, 2022. He answered questions from the board and Trustee Schriemer stated he is really pleased with the process and the bond calendar the district has in place.

## III. Section 98b Goal Progress Reports - Gail VanDaff

Curriculum Director Gail Van Daff presented the VCS Educational Goal Progress Report for Section 98b. VCS used scale scores to mark student progress. The data will be very important for instructional planning. Gail answered questions from the Board regarding the assessment tools used to collect data.

## IV. Audience

Kari Garman – A parent from Tobey shared that she is concerned about the Board’s lack of response to her emails. She wants a universal mask policy for all schools based on science.

Kelly MacDonell – President of VEA addressed Trustee Buikema’s question regarding a history of STAR test results years. She shared the teachers appreciated the robust discussion the board had during the work session. Kelly thinks it would be a positive thing for the board members to witness the testing process.

John Eiler – Addressed the board regarding his children and that he recently pulled them from VCS because he did not feel progress was being made. He is concerned with the lack of science curriculum. He is also concerned with the amount of COVID numbers the district has had this school year.

## V. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

V.A. Approval of the January 10, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.  
Motion carried unanimously.

V.B. Approval of General Fund Invoices Totaling \$274,753.74 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Buikema.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

V.C. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements for December 2021 Totaling \$101,796.25 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Schriemer.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

V.D. Approval of the Series II Bond Authorizing Resolution - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Schriemer.  
Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

V.E. Approval of 8th Grade trip to Cedar Point on Monday, June 13, 2022. All expenses to be paid by the students: A motion for approval to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at the March BOE meeting for final approval of the trip was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman.

Motion carried unanimously.

V.F. Approval of the following Administrator Contract upon Results of State and Federal and Unprofessional Conduct Checks: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman.

Motion carried unanimously.

V.F.1. Allison Dygert - VMS Principal

With no further business to come before the board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

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President Virgil Knowles

March 14, 2022

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Secretary Amy Manchester