

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 9, 2023 - 7:00 PM
Sunset Lake Elementary
201 North Boulevard St
Vicksburg, MI**

M I N U T E S

Members Present: Ron Centofanti, Tina Forsyth, Carol Lohman, Dan Grabowski, Stephanie Willoughby and Virgil Knowles

Members Absent: David Schriemer

Board Secretary: Amy Manchester

Administrators Present: Keevin O'Neill, Steve Goss, Gail VanDaff, Adam Brush, Matt Hawkins, Allison Dygert, Joe Werkema, Amie McCaw, Sarah Bacalia, Jessica Wheeler, Alyssa Thompson, Mike Barwegen, Dewey Waterman, Rick Place

Guests Present: Lisa Coe, Alicia Zagar, Jaime Buikema, Beth O'Roark, Kayci Whitmore, Sunset Lake PTO, Natalie Mason, Jackie Stevens, Myrtle Connor, Liz Cutshaw, Veronica Carra, Stan Carra, James DeSana, Kelly Kohls, Jason Carpenter, Mike Henderson, Chelsea Hambright, Laura Burr, Gary Sherman, Julie and Travis Koeman, Kristin and Rick Burmeister, Jessica Cox, Lisa and Karry Hostetler, Lori Malackowski, Sheila Blackwell, Christine Augustine, Douglas Carr, Kerry Lynn Elief, Jackie Barber, Robert Nicholson, Jason and Laura Heckelman, Johnna Leger, Jaime Buikema, Richard Cutshaw, Holli Vallade, Matt DePerno, Steve Carra, Joshua Phillips, Amanda Duncan, Tarah Walsh, Heather and Dave Zemitans, Randy Hooley, Meg Avery, Michelle Avery, Cara Holysz, Trudy Gwilt

President Knowles called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Opened with thanking Sunset Lake and the PTSO for hosting the meeting. He recognized the great Homecoming week. The school spirit was high in all schools.

A. Recognitions

1. National Principals Month

Supt. O'Neill recognized District Principals and Food Service staff for their service to the District's students.

B. Enrollment Update

Supt. O'Neill gave an update on the 2023-24 Fall student count. The unofficial count for the 2023-24 school year is 2,697 students.

C. Legislative Update

Supt. O'Neill shared that HB4752 is on Governor Whitmer's desk which allows school retirees to work after 6 months instead of 9 months and it raises the maximum amount retiree may make per year.

D. Important Dates

Supt. O'Neill directed the Board to the listing of important dates. October is a busy month in the District.

II. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY

A. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss presented the monthly budget progress report for month ending September 2023 showing total revenues of \$1,257,455; total expenditures of \$4,008,480 and a deficit of revenues over expenditures of \$(2,751,025).

B. Investment Holdings Update - Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss gave an update of the District's investments.

C. Community Education Annual Report - Alyssa Thompson

Community of Education Director Alyssa Thompson presented Community Educations' annual report including an update on

D. Sunset Lake Elementary Annual Report - Amie McCaw

Principal McCaw presented Sunset Lake Elementary's annual report including school events, test data, and student and staff recognitions. She thanked the PTSO for their support throughout the year.

E. Return to In-Person Learning Plan - Gail Van Daff

Curriculum Director, Gail Van Daff gave an overview of the District's Return to Learning Plan for the 2023-24 school year.

III. AUDIENCE

Jim DeSana from District 29 addressed the Board regarding the public bathroom issue. He will be fighting at the state level and would like to solve it quickly. He stated there is no law at this time precluding the use of restrooms.

Steve Cara representative from St. Joseph County feels the bathroom policy is taking away the freedom of students.

Matt Maddock from Oakland County expressed his displeasure and called to replace the Superintendent's and Board.

Christine Augustine addressed the Board regarding transgender students. She urged the Board to go to court if necessary to protect students.

Kerry Elieff offered statistics from US News and Reports and shared her personal story of trauma. She believes girls and boys need to be protected.

Travis Koeman feels the district is pushing the LGBTQ ideology. He believes the Board and Superintendent need to be replaced.

Richard Cutshaw brought up vaping issues at VHS. He feels too many accommodations are made for non-biological males. He asked the board to stop allowing transgender students to use their bathroom of choice. If they do not, he feels the Board and administration should resign immediately.

Holli Vallade addressed the board regarding girls rights. She accused the Board of “grooming”. She stated that if the Board does not change policy, they should be removed.

Kelly Kohls from Moms for America addressed the Board regarding boys in restrooms, locker rooms and sports. She also spoke to the Board about student trauma.

Gary Sherman spoke to the Board regarding his concern with the mixed bathrooms.

Lisa Hostetler addressed the Board regarding transgender students using the bathrooms. She is asking for the Board to withdraw the policy or they need to step down.

Stanley Carra stated he is shocked that the Board is not protecting our daughters.

IV. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

A. Approval of the following Board Meeting Minutes

1. September 11, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Willoughby.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. September 18, 2023 - Special Meeting Minutes: A motion for approval was made by Grabowski and supported by Forsyth.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of General Fund Invoices Totaling \$409,087.22 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Centofanti and supported by Lohman.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

C. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements for August 2023 Totaling \$88,346.94 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

D. 1st Reading Approval of VCS Policy 9700.01 – ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

President Virgil Knowles
November 13, 2023

Secretary Amy Manchester