

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 15, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Vicksburg High School Library
501 E. Highway Street
Vicksburg, Michigan 49097**

MINUTES

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, Dewey Waterman, Rick Place, Karen McKinstry, Jessica Wheeler Ponton, and Alyssa Thompson

Guests Present: Lisa Coe, Rev. Mak Kneebone, Chad Wilson, P. Davenport, Rev. Barry Petrucci, Rebecca Bell, Nico Goodrich.

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

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Approval of Virgil Knowles as Temporary Chairperson to Convene this Meeting through Action Item IV.A.1.

A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman.

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. School Board Recognition

Supt. O'Neill recognized the VCS School Board and thanked them for all they do to support the District.

Supt. O'Neill announced the resignation of Rick Place, Principal at Pathways HS. Rick addressed the Board and expressed his appreciation for their support of the program and its students.

- C. Legislative Update

Supt. O'Neill discussed the Revenue Sharing Concensus projections. Gov. Whitmer will share the final budget information at her State of the State address, which is on January 24, 2024. It is projected that student attendance will be decreasing state-wide. So far, enrollment in Vicksburg seems to be trending in the right direction.

- D. Important Dates

Supt. O'Neill directed the Board to the Important Dates listed in the packet and indicated that HS exams start next week and the beginning of the 2nd semester is on Monday, January 29th.

II. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY

- A. CTE Agreement - Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss shared the draft of the Consortium Agreement that includes updates to include the CTE Center and changes to the program when that center opens. He pointed out that the State Aid stays with the resident district. Districts

will be given student slots for enrollment. VCS will be providing transportation to the CTE Center.

B. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss presented Monthly Budget Progress report for December 2023, showing total revenue of \$11,369,926; total expenditures of \$4,041,785 and a deficit of revenues over expenditures of \$(2,671,859).

C. Investment Holdings Update – Steve Goss

Asst. Supt. Goss presented an update on the District's investments.

D. VHS Annual Report - Adam Brush and Matt Hawkins

Principal Brush and Asst. Principal Hawkins presented the Vicksburg High School Annual Report which included highlights of student activities and events, student data and student achievements. He also recognized staff members for a great year.

III. AUDIENCE

Rev. Mak Kneebone addressed the Board regarding his LGBTQ+ journey and shared that students need support. He feels everyone is better off when all are included. As a transman, he supports VCS.

IV. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

A. Organization of the 2023-24 School Board

A motion for approval of Virgil Knowles as President and David Schriemer as Vice-President of the Board along with the appointments of Stephen Goss as Treasurer and Amy Manchester as Secretary was made by Forsyth and supported by Lohman.

Motion carried unanimously.

1. Election of Officers

- a. President – Virgil Knowles
- b. Vice President – David Schriemer

2. Appointment of Officers

- a. Treasurer - Stephen Goss
- b. Secretary - Amy Manchester

B. Approval of the December 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of General Fund Invoices Totaling \$307,395.71 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Grabowski and supported by Forsyth

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

D. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements for November 2023, Totaling \$164,215.15 - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

E. Approval of the resignation of Pathways Principal, Rick Place, effective January 12, 2024: A motion of approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsyth.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board sadly accepted his resignation. Trustee Willoughby shared words of support.

- F. Resolution to Approve CTE Agreement – ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion or approval was made by Willoughby and supported by Forsyth.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

- G. 1st Reading Approval of the Following Policies - ROLL CALL VOTE: A motion of approval was made by Centofanti and supported by Grabowski.

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.

1. Policy 0122 - Board Powers
2. Policy 1420 - School Administrator Evaluation
3. Policy 3131 - Staff Reductions/Recalls
4. Policy 3142 - Probationary Teachers
5. Policy 3220 - Professional Staff Evaluation
6. Policy 3120 - Employment of Professional Staff
7. Policy 3139 - Staff Discipline
8. Policy 3130 - Assignment and Transfer
9. Policy 3132 - Vacancies
10. Policy 3140 - Termination and Resignation

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

President Virgil Knowles
February 12, 2024

Secretary Amy Manchester