

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Work Session
September 21, 2015
VAB - 6:30 pm
M I N U T E S

Members Present: Wil Emmert, Deborah Harsha, David Schriemer, Tina Forsyth, Carol Lohman, and Virgil Knowles

Secretary Karen Hill

Member Absent: Rudy Callen

Administrators Present: Charles Glaes, Stephen Goss, Gail VanDaff

Guests Present: John O'Toole, Steve Thomas

- I. DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL OVERVIEW AND STRATEGIC PLAN: Gail VanDaff informed the Board that the State requires a 1-2 year strategic plan. Mrs. VanDaff and Mr. John O'Toole presented a 3-5 year plan. The goal for the meeting was for the Board to develop an awareness of the School Improvement Plan; become familiar with the why, how, and what related to our district's instructional strategic plan; learn the non-negotiables for a Professional Learning Community; understand the emphasis on district wide alignment; and establish understanding of the status of each central component of the district instructional strategic plan.

The Why: Vicksburg's Mission: to maximize the success and potential of each student. The Vision: all students will graduate career and college ready. Where we focus is where we will go.

Belief Statements: common assumptions and collective responsibility

District Improvement Plan Goals: academic goals (proficiency in core subjects), organizational goals (prioritize efforts to improve learning, leadership, and relations)

The How:

Districtwide Alignment – The framework we put in place in order to achieve and support a district-wide Professional Learning Community.

The three big ideas (goals) of a PLC (these are non-negotiable) are

1. ensuring that all students learn
2. Build a collaborative culture, and
3. Establish a focus of results

The What: The achievable and actionable strategies necessary in order to achieve the big ideas (goals of a PLC). They are the items categorized in the following chart under the three big ideas of a PLC.

Non-Negotiables for a Professional Learning Community



Ensuring All Students Learn	Building a Collaborative Culture	Establishing a Focus on Results
Guaranteed, Viable Curriculum	Shared Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals	Data Mindset: Efficacy, Transparency
Balanced, Coherent Assessment System	High-Performing Collaborative Teams	Data Management, Collection, Analysis
Schoolwide Multi-Tiered System of Supports	Intentional Collaboration	Action to Improve Results

These nine non-negotiables guide us in the development of the three big ideas of a Professional Learning Communities

Ensuring All students Learn includes the four Critical Questions of a PLC:

1. What should each student learn?
2. How will we know when they have learned it?
3. How will we respond when some students experience difficulty learning?
4. How will we respond when students are already proficient?

Conclusion – district wide alignment – given the differing perspectives that are natural in a typical district, not always easy, so we focus on the three big ideas of a PLC, and on results. We have substantial momentum and progress in our key strategies. We are in our third year of priority standards work, are refining our assessment systems, developing a common MTSS system, and developing fluency with data analysis.

Member Tina Forsyth was glad to hear about focusing on results so teachers aren't just teaching to the test. Dave Schriemer commented on the importance of changing the culture of achievement/expectations and of teaching better. Carol Lohman noted the importance of discussing "College and Career Ready" at the elementary level. Skip Knowles and Wil Emmert commented on the importance of focusing on all learners.

Other Key District Priority Updates

Bond Issue – technology

Teachers learning to use technology – lots of support

Reviewed technology priorities for series 1 bonded technology accomplishments

\$2 mil (spent \$1.5 so far), which included:

- Network upgrades: cabling, servers switches, wireless
- Student /staff devices
- Classroom presentation systems
- Instructional delivery (Safari Montage)
- IP phone system

Series 2 bonded tech priorities \$1.4 million to begin 2016:

- Network infrastructure, increased wireless density
- Building security: access controls, cameras
- Clock/bell/paging systems
- Student devices
- Complete classroom presentation systems

Series 3 will be the replacement phase

Capital Planning – Steve Goss

Existing General Fund Obligations

2013 Bus IPA – final payment 2016 \$250,000 – additional bus notes in 2016 (anticipate continuing program)

2015 refunding bonds ('05) 2020 - \$215-240,000 (capital needs-turf, technology, etc.)

Thinking ahead, we can easily get another 5 years out of the turf, but that will be a possible \$4-500,000 line item. Tennis courts need repairing \$70-80,000.

'07 energy imp bonds (2025) - \$110-\$250,000 (refund if possible in 2017 – dedicate to capital needs after repayment.

Mr. Goss reviewed voter approved bonds and discussed future bond opportunities.

Vicksburg Community Schools

Capital/Long-term Debt Planning

Recap and anticipated timing

- 2016:
 - Enter into IPA for another 1/3 bus fleet replacement
 - Series 2 of 2014 bonds in 2016, \$4.65 Million
- 2017:
 - Refinance 2007 Energy bonds, contingent upon interest rate environment
- 2018:
 - Issue Series 3 of 2014 bonds, \$4.3 Million
- 2019:
 - Repay 2nd school bus IPA
 - issue 3rd school bus IPA
- 2020-2021:
 - Re-allocate 2015 Refunding Bond debt service to district capital needs, including athletic turf replacement, technology, etc.
 - Ask voters for approval of another bond issue. Details to be determined, but conservative assumptions support \$15M+, potentially significantly higher depending on how bond issue would be structured

II. AUDIENCE – No one wished to address the Board on a non-agenda item.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 9:22 pm.

President Virgil Knowles
October 12, 2015

Secretary Karen Hill