

**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 14, 2024
7:00 PM
Sunset Lake Elementary
201 North Boulevard St
Vicksburg, MI 49097**

Minutes

Board Member Present: Ron Centofanti, Tina Forsyth, Carol Lohman, Dave Schriemer, Stephanie Willoughby, and Virgil Knowles
Board Members Absent: Dan Grabowski
Board Secretary: Tamara Young
Administrators Present: Keevin O'Neill, Steve Goss, Adam Brush, Matt Hawkins, Allison Dygert, Joe Werkema, Sarah Bacalia, Amie McCaw, Gail Vandaff, Alyssa Thompson, Dewey Waterman
Guests Present:

President Knowles called the meeting to order at 6:59pm

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Recognitions. Supt. O'Neill welcomed everyone. Thanks to Sunset for the treats. Great homecoming week. Lots of fun and school spirit.
 - 1. National Principal's Month - Governor Whitmer made the proclamation. Supt. O'Neill read the proclamation
- B. Legislative Update. Campaigns in full swing. 5803 bill was signed 5.75 rate reduction, 3%. Takes effect next spring. More details in the newsletter.
- C. Enrollment Update. Fall count day was a couple of weeks ago. 2560 is the tentative enrollment. It will be lower than last fall due to pausing the home school program.
- D. Important Dates. This weekend is the 4-8 grade musical The Little Mermaid. Oct 22 is the MiCareer quest open house. Career connect science lab at the middle school right now. It heads to the elementary schools on Thursday. Choir and band concerts also coming.

II. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INQUIRY

- A. Budget and Finance Report - Steve Goss. Steve Goss. Most of the income is from property taxes that are beginning to come in. State aid will start coming in one week from today. Expenditure side. Transportation line item sticks out due to school bus purchase. Textbooks and curriculum supplies are also higher this time of the year. Retirement rates are different this year also. Centofanti asked about grant allocations. Goss does not see an issue.
- B. Investment Holdings Update - Steve Goss. Continue to spend down the building fund. Schriemer appreciates Goss' smart money management in these times.
- C. Update regarding VESPA and VPA tentative agreements - Steve Goss. 5 % increase for both agreements.

- D. Summer 2026 trip to Austria, Germany, and Switzerland - Troy Smith. He thanked the board for allowing him to speak. He would like to sponsor a trip to Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. Schriemer asked questions about previous trips Smith has done. He stated he would like to see bigger participation. Willoughby is going with her daughter.
- E. Community Education Annual Report - Alyssa Thompson. She thanked everyone for their support. Special thanks to Beth O’Roark for always wearing many hats and doing whatever is asked. Biggest event is the community tailgate, about 2000 people attended. She highlighted all of their year round programs. They are seeing an upward trend in enrollments. They have lots of new staff in Bulldog Beginngs. Kids Klub program has 926 hours of care to provide. Last summer was challenging due to construction but they navigated it with grace. Harely Drummond was the new coordinator and it was very successful. Knowles congratulated her on working through the construction challenges. Schriemer loves to see the community partnerships. Willoughby loved the museum visit.
- F. Sunset Lake Elementary Annual Report - Amie McCaw. She thanked the community for their support with the bond. She highlighted the new bathrooms and hallways. It was a super tight timeframe but it looks amazing. PTSO is in a transition period. Many members are present and will be made official tomorrow night. Many events were highlighted. She also thanked the other elementary teachers for the summer reading challenge and the Stella Diaz Never Gives Up book giveaway. Every student received a copy to read over the summer. It was a huge success. Leadership, culture, academics are the 3 areas everyone focuses on in the school. This all is part of the Leader in Me school. On the academic side: small group instruction and student goals will be the big focus this year. WIN time is going great with the new ELA resource. STAR data is the main assessment. The norms were renamed and redefined. The data between years is very difficult to compare. She showed the data from both years. 3-5 grades are being focused on with a sense of urgency. Schriemer asked if we had data from summer school success yet. McCaw replied they will have it but it’s not in yet. Culture is a big piece at Sunset. Every student needs a voice. Building healthy communities, VHS peer playground program, HOUSE system - DAWGS, and critter coin incentive were highlighted. Chelsey Brink presented her PE and recess options/programs. Lori Gordon from the highschool came up with a new program. VHS students are coming over during seminar time to play with the students on the playground. DAWGS program has 5 “houses”. Each house has students from each grade. This is bringing community and a sense of belonging to the students. Student lighthouse team is 103 members this year. 3 students spoke about LIM day. Chelsey Schimp talked about student safeties. 2 students also spoke about this program. 53 students applied this year. These applications are narrowed down to 13. Kids chosen sign a pledge which hangs in their locker.

III. Audience. No members of the audience wished to speak.

IV. BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

- A. Approval of the following Board Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2024. A motion for approval was made by Schriemer and supported by Willoughby. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Approval of General Fund Invoices Totaling \$447,126.16 - ROLL CALL VOTE. A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsythe. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- C. Approval of Purchase Card Disbursements for Totaling \$162,556.74 - ROLL CALL VOTE. A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsythe. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- D. Approval of VPA and VESPA agreements - ROLL CALL VOTE. A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Willoughby. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- E. Approval of summer 2026 trip - ROLL CALL VOTE. A motion for approval was made by Willoughby and supported by Schriemer. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- F. Approval of the Retirement of Tobey Teacher, Wendy Gebben, Effective at the end of the 24/25 school year. - ROLL CALL VOTE. A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Forsythe. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- G. Approval of the Retirement of High School Parapro, Lisa Coe, Effective October 31, 2024. - ROLL CALL VOTE. A motion for approval was made by Forsyth and supported by Willoughby. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
- H. Approval changes to Policies 1422,1623,1662, 2260, 2260.01, 3122, 3123, 3362, 4122, 4123, 4362, and 5517 due to personnel updates. A motion for approval was made by Schriemer and supported by Lohman. Motion carried unanimously.
- I. 2nd Reading Approval of the Following Policies - ROLL CALL VOTE. A motion for approval was made by Lohman and supported by Willoughby. Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote.
 - 1. PO 7540.03 Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety
 - 2. PO 8531 Free and Reduced - Price Meals

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

President Virgil Knowles
November 11, 2024

Secretary Tamara Young

