



**Voyageur Academy
Board of Directors**
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Detroit, MI 48210
P 313.748.4000
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**Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

Mission Statement:

The mission of the **Voyageur School District** is to prepare students to be **College Ready and College Bound**. This mission will be achieved through the foundational pillars of Discipline, Focus, Hard Work, Perseverance and Character; and the humanitarian pillars of Empathy and Compassion.

Call To Order 6:35 P

Roll Call

Curtis Wade – **Present**, (Wayne County, Detroit, MI)
Minika Benning – **Present**, (Macomb County, Macomb, MI)
Anita T. Washington – **Present**, (Oakland County, Farmington Hills, MI)
Barbara Smith – **Present**, (Wayne County, Inkster, MI)
Dale Williams – **Present**, (Oakland County, Southfield, MI)
Robert Redmer – **Present**, (Oakland County, Oakland Twp., MI)
Laura Benedict – **Present**, (Oakland County, Oakland Twp., MI)

Others Present: Vergil Smith(Superintendent), Angela Gilbert(TRG), Rod Atkins(Deputy Superintendent & K-8 Principal), Patricia Crosson(HS Principal), Sherri Meniffee(HS Counselor) and Ronnie Phillips(Ferris State University)

**Reading of the Mission,
Vision and Core Values
Statement** Anita T. Washington

Approval of Agenda Motion to Approve the January 20, 2026 Board Meeting Agenda
Moved by Benning, supported by Smith
Yes – 7 No - 0

Agenda Amendment/s: **Discussion Items**

- Add Line item 6 - Student Discipline 1205269

Action Items

- Add Line Item 5 - Student Discipline 1205269

Agenda Amendments Approval

Motion to Adopt the January 20, 2026 Agenda Amendments

Moved by Benning, supported by Smith

Yes - 7

No - 0

Consent Items

Motion to Approve the November 18, 2025 Proposed Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Smith, supported by Williams

Yes – 7

No – 0

Correspondence

Ferris State January 2026 Board Newsletter

ESP/School Admin, Contractors

1. Authorizer Report - Ronnie Phillips

A. Board month celebration

B. Reviewed School Summary Report

- Academic
- Target score 50, school score 58
- 100% Compliance
- Held 9 regular board meetings and 3 special meetings

2. ESP Report - Vergil Smith

A. 3 vendors provide bid for parking lot

- Monahan Company
 - \$100,000 higher than the other 2 companies
- Somerset Paving
- Hutch Paving
 - TRG has experience with this company
 - \$100,000 less than Monahan
 - \$245,000
 - Awarded the contract
 - If Prevailing Wage is required, \$25,000 more
 - Can work around to avoid this fee
 - Estimated completion date is August 1, 2026

B. Property from Zion

- \$100,000 or \$10,000 a year for 10 years
- Owns $\frac{2}{3}$ of the parking lot

C. Ferris State University Grant

- Awarded \$20,000
- Purchased the following items for the CTE Building
 - 2.5 ton Refrigerant
 - Gas Furnace
 - Evaporator Coil
 - Bypass Humidifier
 - 12,000 BTU AC and Heat Pump
 - Water Heater

D. Received OST Grant

- \$75,000
- Summer School Expenses

E. Bond Rating is B+

F. Filter First Water Management Plan

- Active January 2026
- Onsite water testing
- Results will be shared with the board members and on the website

G. Will cancel school Friday, January 23, 2026 for students; staff must attend to prepare for the new semester

3. IT Director Report - Shared by Curtis Wade

A. Google Incident

- Cyber Attack
 - December 4, 2025, school encountered a Cyber Incident
 - Compromise of the Google workspace
 - All Administrators and user accounts were deleted
 - December 26, 2025, Administrator access was limited as the 20 day Google Account Deletion Retention window had elapsed
 - Date of restoration was no longer available
 - Initially the primary account was branded under Consortium College Prep
 - Rebranding to Voyageur Academy
 - The primary account under Consortium College Prep was not changed to Voyageur Academy, therefore leaving the primary account vulnerable to outsiders
 - Our team responded to Google within the allotted time frame; unfortunately due to the lapse in time, all items that were in the cloud were not retrievable
 - Layers of protection is now in place for the primary domain

4. K-8 School Leader - Rod Atkins

A. NWEA Testing started the 1st week of January

B. Enrollment Update Sept 2025 vs Jan 2026

	<u>Sept 2025</u>	<u>Jan 2026</u>
K	84	79
1	88	86
2	90	89
3	95	94
4	95	90
5	90	84
6	112	105
7	84	81
8	107	104
Total	845	812

9	156	155
10	142	143
11	128	124
12	115	115
Total	541	537

C. ADA% Update Sept 2025 vs Jan 2026

	<u>Sept 2025</u>	<u>Jan 2026</u>
K	86%	85%
1	87%	88%
2	89%	89%
3	87%	88%
4	87%	89%
5	91%	88%
6	96%	93%
7	96%	93%
8	93%	93%
Total	92%	91%

9	90%	96%
10	90%	94%
11	89%	90%
12	89%	92%
Total	89.5%	93%

D. Population Reality

o Demographics / Psychographics

- 2 parents were murdered
- 5 families with parents incarcerated
- 1 student with a tether
- At least 10 families with I.C.E incidents
- 96% of students are qualified as "At Risk" based on:
 - Income
 - Living Circumstances
 - Chronic Absenteeism
 - Major Illnesses
 - Parent/s Incarcerated
 - No Transportation
 - Homelessness
 - Custody Battles
 - Teen Pregnancy
 - Domestic Violence
 - CPS Engagement

o Reality Graphics

- Resilient
- Determined
- Loyal to the core
- Once they know you care, they will go "into the fire" for you

- Vulnerable when they feel safe with you
- Will confide in those they trust
- Will work hard to please you
- Street smart
- View school as a 2nd home
- Like to participate
- Take care of siblings
- Enjoy being helpful
- Outspoken
- Very independent

5. 9 - 12 School Leader Report - Patricia Crosson

A. Credit Recovery

- 12th grade
 - 27 students enrolled
 - 8 students in danger of not graduating
- 11th grade
 - 30 students enrolled
 - 9 students in danger of not graduating
- 10th grade
 - 30 students enrolled
 - 10 students in danger of not graduating

B. Credit Recovery Updates

- Compared to last school year, less students enrolled
- 56 courses have been completed
- Progress made with grading equity
- Areas of improvement
 - Almost 2 months behind due to losing historical data from Cyber Attack
 - Audits have to be redone for 400 students

C. Culture Updates

- 68 suspensions as of 1/20/26
 - More than ½ of the suspensions were related to fighting
- Referrals
 - Many related to tardiness and skipping

D. Culture Improvements

- Proactive mentoring will start in February
- Schoolwide conflict resolution programming 6th - 12th grades
- Combat social media phenomenon of "one fight, we all fight and then we record"
- Improve parental involvement
 - 34 parents in attendance for Zoom Parent Meeting
 - 0 parents attended In-Person Parent Meeting

E. College and Career Updates

- Will host a FAFSA and College Scholarship Day
 - Due to Cyber Attack, lost data included:
 - College Acceptance
 - Scholarships

- FAFSA Data
- Students did not have access to their school emails for most of December
- Last year, there was 45/115 or 39% of students who had completed FAFSA
- This year, there are 51/122 or 42% of students who have completed FAFSA

F. Career Trades Program

- Will be able to give a proper update in March
- Immediate changes:
 - Moved courses to 2nd and 3rd hour
 - Students were late often to 1st hour
 - Attendance contract for making up hours
 - Will outline how students will earn journeyman's certificate or elective credit
- Working to facilitate PAC meetings
- Addition of 3 career trade programs
 - Health Science, Cyber Security and Construction

G. Effects of Google Breach

- All teacher observation data lost
- Teachers lost most instructional content from 1 - 7 years
- Most discipline historical data lost
- Students lost all of their work
- Historical testing data lost
- Operational forms lost
- Teacher absence data lost
- Low staff morale

Discussion Items

1. January Financial Report
 - CBIZ
2. Dale Williams - Reappointment to Board - 4 year term
3. Parking Lot Vendor Contract
4. Butler College Prep High School Visit March 9, 2026
 - Need to know the number of attendees
 - Visit will be on a Monday morning
 - Planning to arrive either Saturday night or Sunday morning
 - Team building in Chicago
 - Need to confirm mode of transportation
5. Board Retreat Date
 - February 7, 2026 at Somerset Inn
 - 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
6. Student Discipline 1205269
 - Student 1205269 went into a classroom that she was not scheduled to be in with the intention to confront another student
 - Words were exchanged between both students and almost immediately both students started fighting
 - 2 other students, who were related to student 1205269 also jumped in on the fight, making it a 3 on 1 fight

- The student who was initially jumped on, also had help from 2 additional students making it a 6 person brawl
- As staff members attempted to break up the fight and restore order, both groups of students were making threats, beating on windows and screaming at each other and at staff members
- This seemed to be a premeditated fight
- Investigation showed that student 1205269 made threats before the fight
- Student 1205269 attended the board meeting and was given the opportunity to talk about the situation
- The student mentioned that since being suspended from school, a lot of thought has been put into what occurred and realized everything could have been avoided
- Parent feels the student has learned a valuable lesson since being suspended
- Parent said student has not been allowed to go anywhere
- Student has not been rewarded with anything since the fight occurred
- Board members mentioned that they have to stand firm on the policies that were implemented for the school and have to look at the safety of staff and other students.
- Also Board members are concerned that the Student Handbook that was signed by both the student and parent, was viewed as invalid

Action Items

1. Motion to Approve the January Financial Report

Moved by Benning, supported by Washington

Yes – 7

No – 0

2. Motion to Approve the 4 year Reappointment of Dale Williams as a Board Member

Moved by Smith, supported by Benning

Yes - 7

No - 0

3. Motion to Approve the contract for Hutch Paving as the Parking Lot Vendor

Moved by Williams, supported by Benning

Yes - 7

No - 0

4. Motion to Approve the date for the Board Retreat (This was previously approved during the discussion)

Yes - 7

No - 0

5. Motion to Approve the Expulsion of Student 1205269

It was recommended that Student 1205269 be given a long term suspension for the remainder of this school year, with no educational support and the opportunity to re-enroll in the fall with conditions of providing speaking engagements and community service

Moved by Redmer, supported by Washington

Yes - 6

No - 1

Board Committee Reports/

Board Individual Comments

1. Specialized Services Committee - will schedule a meeting in March
2. Budget Development Committee – will schedule a meeting to discuss purchase of parking lot from Zion
3. Academic Excellence Committee - met January 8
4. Policy Committee - waiting on updates
5. Technology Committee – will meet again in January and then in February
6. Athletic Committee – met January 12
7. Security Committee – none
8. Facility Use Committee - none

Call to the Public

Sherri Menifee, HS Counselor, wants to know how Board members will present information to the staff about the Cyber Attack?

She feels hurt, she feels she let her student down, she's scared, she feels lost. The Board President and the IT Department will talk to the staff about what really happened and about moving forward. Will talk about the infrastructure. Wants the staff to know things will be ok. Board members express feelings of concernment and about having the staff feel assured that measures are in place to safeguard the domain

Announcements

The next Board of Directors meeting will be February 17, 2026 at 6:35pm

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm

Moved by Benning, supported by Williams

Yes – 7

No – 0

*Individuals wishing to address the Board of Directors under items II and XII above are requested to sign in with the Board Secretary prior to the start of the meeting. Individual comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes each and a total time allowance not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time-effective manner.

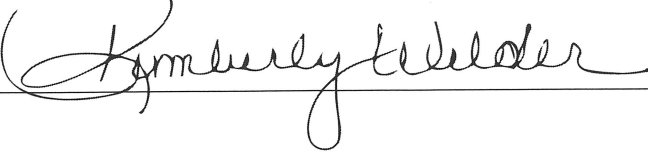
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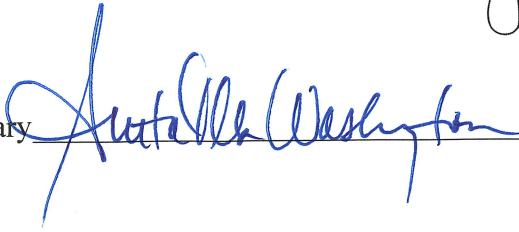
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Board Recording Secretary  Date 1-26-26

Board Secretary  Date 2/17/26