



**Voyageur Academy
Board of Directors
4366 Military
Detroit, MI 48210
P 313.748.4000
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**Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

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. Gibbs – **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), Rod Atkins(Deputy Superintendent), Angela Gilbert(TRG), Dasha Simkins(VA Kindergarten teacher), Jonea Stewart(VA 1st/2nd ParaPro), Jason Rider(IT Director), Audriana Farmer-Mohamed(VA Kindergarten teacher), Roxanne Dawson(Security K -12), William Rainey(MS and HS Social Worker), Melissa Lopez(Dean of Instruction K-8), Patricia Crosson(HS Principal), Jenny Childress(Dean of Instruction 9-12), Geri Richter, Arianna Morris(8th grade student), Camilo Torres(HS student), Charisse Vaunado(8th grade teacher) and Corey Leniear(Building Sub K-8)

**Reading of the Mission,
Vision and Core Values
Statement**

Anita T. Gibbs

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve the October 15, 2024 Board Meeting Agenda

Moved by Benning, supported by Smith

Yes - 7

No - 0

Agenda Amendment/s:**ESP/School Admin, Contractors**

Remove Ronnie Phillips - Authorizer Report

Add Arianna Morris - Student Report - line item 1

Add Patrick Sweeney Report - line item 2

Add Geri Richter - line item 3

Add Melissa Lopez - NWEA Report - line item 4

Add Jenny Childress- NWEA Report HS - line item 5

Action Items

Approval of Audit

**Agenda Amendments
Approval**

Motion to Adopt the October 15, 2024 Agenda Amendments

Moved by Smith, supported by Redmer

Yes - 7

No - 0

Correspondence

Ferris State Board Newsletter

Consent Items

Motion to Approve the September 17, 2024 Proposed Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Smith, supported by Benning

Yes – 7

No – 0

**ESP/School
Admin, Contractors****1. Arianna Morris - 8th grade student**

A. Would like to start an Art Club for Voyageur students

B. 21 middle school students are interested

C. Membership based on grades and positive behavior

D. Art teacher, both HS and Elementary, will provide supplies

E. Will meet every Tuesday and Friday

2. Patrick Sweeney - Virtual Meeting - Audit

A. Audited Financial Statements are public documents

B. Independent Auditor's Report

- Unmodified opinion

- Everything checked out

C. Financial position as of June 30, 2024

- 4 different funds

- General Fund

- \$9.4 mil in total assets

- \$4.6 mil in cash

- No state aid received yet for July or August

- \$4.6 mil in liability

- Grant revenues

- Amounts owed to 3rd parties

- Fund balance = \$4,790,000

- \$19 mil in pupil funding

- Spent \$17 mil in debt
- \$18.2 mil budgeted to spend
- \$17.2 mil spent
- Debt Service Fund
 - Rental Contract
 - Copier Contract
 - Revenue Bonds
 - Total is \$17 mil
- Capital Projects Fund
- Food Service Fund

D. Notes

- Definitions
- Contracts
- Various Funds

3. Geri Richter

A. Issue involving school properties

B. Each parcel needs to be tax exempt

- 3 parcels - money owed
- \$100 outstanding bill for garbage at Hammond location
- \$922 for a water bill
 - Bill goes to Joe street location
- Will request all bills be sent to: 4321 Military

C. Will start an eviction process for 4164 Joe Street

D. Will request water and electricity be turned off

E. Wesson Property

- Detroit Land Bank owned it
- Land was sold to American Indian Health
- The land is not being used
- Closed on sale April 2022
- American Indian Health did not use property as outlined in the agreement, therefore, the land would need to be returned
 - \$8 mil in the bank
 - \$3 mil grant from state
 - \$1 mil from Michigan Economic Development
 - Was supposed to build a soccer field and Covid Health Center
 - Will write to the Land Bank about the land usage

F. Client Trust Account

- \$3,000 +
- Would like to offer it to the new Art Club

4. NWEA Report - Melissa Lopez

A. Fall Reading Data

- All grades need to be at 50%
- 3rd grade students are the lowest
- This is the first time 3rd grade has to read the questions on their own

- Data compared from 2022 to 2024
- Each grade level is showing an upward trend
- The norm is 170 which is 50%
- Each year we are starting out a little bit better

B. Math

- K - 2 grade Cohort
- Norm is 175
- 3 - 5 grade strong start than previous years

C. Next steps

- Data meeting
 - Identify the students that will be grouped together
 - Who will be individualized
 - What are the lowest areas for each cohort
 - MTSS small groups

5. ESP Report - Vergil Smith

A. Final inspections to take place in the new building in the next 30 days

- B. Furniture needs to be assembled
- C. Technology being installed

B. Environmental Testing

- Exterior test results
- Contaminants in all areas were found by Eagle
- Nothing super dangerous
- Sod and mulch are kept up, we should be ok
- New parking lot at new building will be paved but until then, the area must be fenced off
- \$12,000 for fence
- New soil needed for the east-side of the building. Area must be fenced off until new soil arrives
- Playground at the current building is still contaminated
- AKT recommends a second testing
 - \$9,500 in cost

C. Bond

- B+ rating with a stable outlook

D. Grant opportunities

- \$90,000 for K - 8 for after school program
- Up to \$90,000 for high school
- Waiting for approval
- Filter First Grant
- 2025 all schools will have to write a Water Management Plan
- All water fountains must be filtered
- SAM.Gov is a federal website that will provide all funding

E. CTE Program Applications have been submitted

6. IT Director Report - Jason Rider

A. No major outages or interruptions since the last board meeting

- B. Over 100 tickets for help desk
- C. No major issues with NWEA testing
- D. PSAT testing fully digital
- E. Low voltage cabling has been connected
- F. Interactive tv's and end point technology will be installed by Charter Tech
- G. Guardian Alarm will be working with GC's
- H. Copiers and EVOLV system will be installed sometime next week

7. K-8 School Leader Report - Rod Atkins

- Culture Team Meeting
 - Work Groups
 - Middle school students and behavior
 - 5 categories
 - Excellent behavior
 - Make sure these students are awarded
 - Problems in the classroom
 - Behavior Improvement Classes
 - 12 individuals
 - Tuesday, Thursday after school from 3:45 to 5:00
 - Saturday 8:00 to 11:30
 - Weekly behavior report
 - Will be able to stop attending once report provides positive behavior

8. 9-12 School Leader Report - Patricia Crosson

A. Varsity Tutoring

- 100 students, grades 9-11
- Every Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30
- Private Tutor with no more than 5 students
- Bi-lingual
- SAT Prep Class will be every Saturday, beginning October 26

B. Program Improvements and Challenges

- Lack of Tutoring Coordinator
 - This year we have a Tutoring Coordinator
- Lack of Structure
 - Assigned tutoring days
 - Will be posted everywhere
 - Set conditions for teachers
 - Have to shift the mindset of students
 - Students have to register

C. Credit Recovery

- 12th Grade
- 46 students who have failed 1 or more classes = 37%
- 12 students are in danger of not graduating = 10%
- Edgenuity is a credit recovery program
- Program Challenges
 - Lack of Credit Recovery Management

- Lack of interim meetings
- Edgenuity was not managed
- 144 students were enrolled but not monitored

D. Positive Grading Audit Findings

- 100% of teachers had grades
- Updated within 7 days
- 96% had the required amount of grades entered

E. Discipline Data

- 27 suspensions
- 8 fighting
- 3 disrespecting staff
- 7 panel hearings
- 1 recommendation for expulsion
- 136 referrals
 - 9th grade
 - Electronics

F. Upcoming Events

- Spirit Week
- 2nd BAG Day
- PTC

G. HS NWEA Report - Jenny Childress

- 9th Grade Math
 - 43% of students scored in lowest percentile
 - 43% scored in the middle
 - 14% scored at grade level or higher
- 9th Grade Reading
 - 35% of students scored in the lowest percentile
 - 52% of students scored in the middle
 - 13% of students scored at grade level or higher
- Action Steps
 - Data Drives with ELA and Math teachers
 - Implement instructional strategies into lesson plans

Discussion Items

1. August Financial Report
 - \$90,000 to Eagle in 30 days
 - Leaf Blower purchase
 - Purchase a lot of keys
2. Ferris State Internal Review
 - Template from Ferris State
 - Strengths and Weakness

Action Items

1. Motion to Approve the August Financial Report
 Moved by Gibbs, supported by Redmer
Yes – 7 No – 0

Announcements

The next Board of Directors meeting will be November 19, 2024 at 6:35pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:26 pm

Moved by Benning, supported by Redmer

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.

*Complaints or concerns regarding Board members or school employees associated with the Academy shall first be addressed in writing and delivered to the Board President at least five (5) days prior to the Board meeting or such complaints or concerns shall not be heard by the Board. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time-effective manner.

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public comment during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.

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Board Recording Secretary  Date 10-20-24

Board Secretary  Date 11/19/24