



**Voyageur Academy
Board of Directors**

4366 Military
Detroit, MI 48210
P 313.748.4000
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**Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 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 6:36 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), Nicole Burris(CTE Director), Jenny Childress(HS Dean of Curriculum), Elijah Evans(Administrative Asst), Joe Gagnon(K-12 Director), Jason Rider(IT Director), Corey Leniear(VA MS Teacher), Eddie Holmes, Coach Tye, Belinda Cleary(ESL Director) and Kelly Buckmaster(Ferris State University)

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

Anita T. Washington

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve the February 17, 2026 Board Meeting Agenda
Moved by Benning, supported by Smith
Yes – 7 No - 0

Agenda Amendment/s:

ESP/School Admin, Contractors

- Add Line item 7 - Monahan Liquidated Damages

Discussion Items

- Add Line Item 3 - Monahan Liquidated Damages

Action Items

- Add Line Item 3 - Monahan Liquidated Damages

**Agenda Amendments
Approval**

Motion to Adopt the February 17, 2026 Agenda Amendments

Moved by Benning, supported by Smith

Yes - 7

No - 0

Consent Items

Motion to Approve the January 20, 2026 Proposed Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Smith, supported by Williams

Yes – 7

No – 0

Motion to Approve the February 7, 2026 Proposed Board Retreat Minutes

Moved by Smith, supported by Benning

Yes - 7

No - 0

Correspondence

Ferris State February 2026 Board Newsletter

**ESP/School
Admin, Contractors**

1. Authorizer Report - Kelly Buckmaster (Associate Director)

A. Bi-Annual Meeting

- Results will be discussed at the March Board Meeting

2. ESP Report - Vergil Smith

A. Discontinue services with CBIZ

- Need resolution
- TRG will take the RFP process

B. Consolidated Apps for Grants

- No decreases
- Slight increase

C. State Budget for 2026-2027

- \$250 increase per pupil = \$10,300 per pupil
- 6% At Risk Funding increase = 31A, Section 41
- Flexibility with state funding

D. Board Retreat

- Future Board Agendas
 - Created "At A Glance" prior to board meetings

E. Butler College Trip

- Flights handled

F. NE corner of our lot where buses come onto the property, the City Inspector noticed city traffic using our "created path". Will provide guidance on how to stop the extra traffic

3. IT Director Report - [Jason Rider](#)

- A. No major internal outages over the last 30 days
- B. Still working on getting back on track from the cyber attack
- C. Replaced over 60 access points
- D. Charter Tech handled the upgrade
- E. One building issue
 - Electrical issue in a network closet
 - Dedicated circuit was installed
- F. Help Desk
 - Chromebooks, starting to age
- G. Google Incident
 - Proactive steps
 - Had success in recovering some files from staff computers
 - All domains have been pulled into one location
 - Secondary email notifications
 - Added monitoring to the domain
 - Enabled multifactor authentication for Admin accounts
 - Enabled work space alerts
 - Enabled a Google workspace backup
 - Fully licensed
- H. Upcoming Projects
 - Replace battery backups to Ion Lithium batteries
 - Adding PSU redundancy to all switches
 - Replace all switches that are aging out
 - Replace access points
 - Backup internet connection
 - Finished AV system in the CTE building
- I. Zero Eyes
 - Annual subscription is \$29,000
 - Grant money covers this expense
- J. Fee to cover Google backup is \$3,200 annually

4. K-8 School Leader - Rod Atkins

- A. Winter NWEA Update
 - Math - Percentage of students hitting their goals
 - K = 88%
 - 1 = 44%
 - 2 = 67%
 - 3 = 36%
 - 4 = 63%
 - 5 = 51%
 - 6 = 34%
 - 7 = 47%
 - 8 = 50%
 - Reading - Percentage of students hitting their goals
 - K = 64%
 - 1 = 49%

- 2 = 56%
- 3 = 47%
- 4 = 55%
- 5 = 49%
- 6 = 39%
- 7 = 41%
- 8 = 44%

B. M Step

- 4 sections
 - Advanced - 1317 - 1357
 - Proficient - above 1300 - 1316
 - Partially Proficient - 1280 - 1299
 - Not Proficient - below 1280
- Testing is done in the spring therefore data is not received promptly

C. Internal Assessment created for students K - 8

- Michigan standards
- Strategy is to develop areas of strengths and weaknesses based on data from NWEA, M Step in order to develop a curriculum for students

D. Improve Math Proficiency

- Integrate M Step into daily routines
- Intensify the focus on the fundamentals of math
- 4 Operations
 - Addition
 - Subtraction
 - Multiplication
 - Division
- Incorporate traditional methods of learning balanced with limited technology
- Leverage supplemental resources
- Intentional Extended Learning Opportunities

E. K - 8 Foundational Elements of Math

- K - 2
 - Counting and Cardinality
 - Operations and Algebraic thinking
 - Number and Operations in base ten
 - Measurement and Data
 - Place Value
 - Geometry
 - Word Problems
- 3 - 5
 - Analyzing and Creating Graphs
 - Operations and Algebraic thinking
 - Fractions
 - Word Problems
- 6 - 8
 - Ratios and Proportions
 - Expressions and Equations
 - Statics and Probability

- Geometry
- Word Problems

F. April 6 is the date M Step starts

G. M Step Monday's

- Work on 3 - 5 problems with students by grade level

H. Mid Year Local Created Assessment Results

- 1st Grade
 - 39% Partially Proficient
 - 35% Proficient
 - 4% Advanced
 - 22% Not Proficient
- 2nd Grade
 - 35% Proficient
 - 12% Advance
 - 28% Partially Proficient
 - 21% Not Proficient
- 3rd Grade
 - 45% Not Proficient
 - 29% Partially Proficient
 - 21% Proficient
 - 5% Advanced
- 4th Grade
 - 59% Not Proficient
 - 8% Proficient
 - 1% Advanced
 - 32% Partially Proficient

5. 9 - 12 School Leader Report - Patricia Crosson and Jenny Childress

A. VCP Data

- Math
 - 9th grade
 - 145 students
 - 28% scored 50% or higher
 - 41 students are at grade level
 - Average score 218
 - National Average 227
 - SpEd
 - 11 students tested
 - Score 228
 - ELL
 - 21 students tested
 - Score 211
 - 10th grade
 - 135 students
 - 41% scored 50% or higher

- Average score 229
 - National average 229
 - 63 students attended Voyageur at least 1 year
- SpEd
 - 6 students tested
 - Score 243
 - 14 points above National average
 - Test is read aloud, small group, use a calculator
- ELL
 - 16 students tested
 - Score 225
 - 4 points below National average
- Reading
 - 9th grade
 - 151 students
 - 53% scored 50% or higher
 - 58% are cohorts
 - Class average is 217
 - National average is 217
 - SpEd
 - 11 students tested
 - Score 218
 - 1 point above National average
 - ELL
 - 21 students tested
 - Score 211
 - 6 points below National average
 - 10th grade
 - 134 students
 - 64% scored 50% or higher
 - 34% cohorts
 - Score 224
 - National average 218
 - 6 points above
 - SpEd
 - 7 students
 - Score 227
 - 9 points above National average
 - ELL
 - 15 students
 - Score 224
 - 6 points above National average

6. CTE Director Report - Nicole Burriss

- CTE
 - 42 students enrolled
 - 35 boys
 - 7 girls

- Classes offered
 - Plumbing
 - 5 students
 - Installation of gas and electric water heaters
 - Installation of residential toilet systems
 - Installation of bay area workstations
 - HVAC
 - 12 students
 - Identification of HVAC electrical components
 - Refrigerant basics
 - Installation of bay area workstations
 - Electrical
 - 25 students
 - Voltage, Current, Resistance
 - Intro to electrical circuitry
 - OHM's Law and Circuit Calculations
 - Overall
 - Average grade = B
 - 20 Honor Roll
 - 2 hour class
 - Students receive 2 grades
 - Semester 2 Updates
 - Courses offered 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th hour
 - Teachers will have 1st hour prep
 - Program Advisory Council Meetings
 - Intro to CTE Program Series offered to 10th grade students
 - 1:1 Director to Student Academics Progress Meetings
 - Developing Community Business Partnerships
 - Perceptual Data CTE Program Evaluation Survey
 - Looking ahead to Year #2
 - Increase CTE student enrollment
 - Cohort 1 Practicum Field Work with business community partners
 - Research 3 additional career tech programs
 - Construction
 - Health Science
 - Cyber Security

7. Monahan Liquidated Damages

- \$15,000 in liquidated damages
- Wants to be paid out
- Kevin Monahan is the GC

- Would the board consider paying him

Discussion Items

1. February Financial Report

- Student bathroom repair - \$988
- AMEX report - fraud charge of \$100
- At Work Security - \$ 6,800
\$12,000
- Bag Lady Enterprises - \$2,500 - Athletic meals
- Athletic Event Support
- Concessions - 2 line item charges
- Where is the revenue from concessions
- Triumph Bus - \$12,000
\$40,000
- Event Help - \$700 - Athletic Dept help
\$350
- Citizens Bank - \$540
- Zap Zone - \$5,000 - field trip - PBIS MS

2. Resolution to terminate the auditing services of CBIZ

3. Monahan Liquidated Damages

Action Items

1. Motion to Approve the February Financial Report

Moved by Williams, supported by Benning

Yes – 7

No – 0

2. Motion to Approve the Resolution to terminate the auditing services of CBIZ

Moved by Williams, supported by Redmer

Yes - 7

No - 0

3. Motion to Approve Monahan Liquidated Damages by paying \$7,500

Moved by Benning, supported by Benedict

Yes - 7

No - 0

Board Committee Reports/

Board Individual Comments

1. Specialized Services Committee - will schedule a meeting in March
2. Budget Development Committee – Met Mar 2, 2026
3. Academic Excellence Committee - None
4. Policy Committee - waiting on updates
5. Technology Committee – will meet in March 2026
6. Athletic Committee – None
7. Security Committee – None
8. Facility Use Committee - None

Call to the Public

None

Announcements

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:48 pm

Moved by Benning, supported by Smith

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.

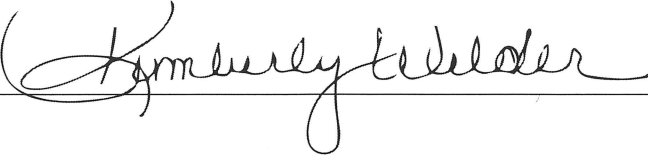
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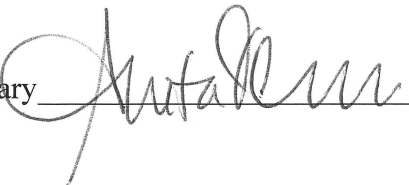
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Board Recording Secretary  Date 2-22-26

Board Secretary  Date 2/17/26