

**Voyageur Academy
Board of Directors**

**4366 Military
Detroit, MI 48210
P 313.748.4000
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**Approved
Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

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: Rod Atkins(Deputy Superintendent), Angela Gilbert(TRG), Jason Rider(IT Director), Melissa Lopez(Dean of Instruction K-8), Patricia Crosson(HS Principal), Jenny Childress(Dean of Instruction 9-12), Joe Gagnon(K-12 Director), Ronnie Phillips(Ferris State University) and HS students and families

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

Anita T. Gibbs

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve the February 18, 2025 Board Meeting Agenda
Moved by Williams, supported by Benning
Yes - 7 No - 0

Agenda Amendment/s:**Action Items**

Add Line Item 5 - Laura Benedict Re-Appointment
Minika Benning Re-Appointment

**Agenda Amendments
Approval**

Motion to Adopt the February 18, 2025 Agenda Amendment
Moved by Williams, supported by Smith

Yes - 7 No - 0

Consent Items

Motion to Approve the November 19, 2024 Proposed Board Meeting Minutes
Moved by Benning, supported by Smith

Yes - 7 No - 0

Motion to Approve the January 28, 2025 Proposed Special Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Williams, supported by Smith

Yes - 7 No - 0

Correspondence

Ferris State Board Newsletter

**ESP/School
Admin, Contractors****1. Authorizer Report - Ronnie Phillips**

A. Keep up with the workshops

B. Mid Contract Review

- Everything went well
- Answered a lot of good questions
- Right on target
- Need to improve on test scores

C. Another year and half before the contract review

2. IT Director Report - Jason Rider

A. No real outages

B. Online and healthy

C. Axis point in MS gym was hit by a ball and went offline

- Need to find a cage to protect it

D. Help Desk

- Charter Tech and Travon
- 60 tickets per month
- Student chromebooks
 - Screen damage
- Ordered 100 screens to have onsite for repairs

E. Projects

- Timers
 - Installd in main building and new building
 - Fully programmable
- Technology finished in new building with the exception of door access
- New cards will have PIN access

- Zero Eyes, Evolv and cameras are in the new building

3. K-8 School Leader Report - Rod Atkins

A. FAFSA Grant - [Sherri Meniffee](#)

- Applied in 2024
- \$97,000 to help students with completing FAFSA
 - College tours
 - Trade Centers
 - Volunteer work at food banks
 - Incentives for students to complete FAFSA
- 11 schools received the award
- If students do not complete the FAFSA form, a waiver must be completed
- Must have a Graduation Policy which is currently being drafted
- Need approval from Board Members to accept this grant
- The policy committee will review and advise by the next board meeting
- The policy must be in effect by August 15, 2025

B. Construction Update

- Elevator installation began last week
- Phase 2 of construction will be added to the existing contract using a change order
 - The board members need a written copy of the change order as it needs to be signed by the end of this week
- Cost has increased from \$1 million to \$1.2 million
- \$270,000 for the parking lot is not included in the \$1.2 million cost
 - Board members need a blueprint from the architecture about the parking lot
- Received written approval from state that using a change order to current contract will not require us to follow the prevailing wage requirements for Phase 2

C. Compliance Update

- Voyageur has achieved 100% compliance with Ferris State Epicenter requirements for 6 consecutive years.
 - Plaque awarded for this accomplishment

D. Fall Board Policy Review

- All legally required except BP5340 which is a Cardiac Response Plan
 - Cardiac Response Plan already in place
- Need to schedule a Policy Committee meeting within the next 2 weeks to discuss all items for review

E. K - 12 PTC Survey

- 3 sections
 - Home and School
 - Academic
 - Social Emotional Feedback
- Preferred Method of Communication

- Text messaging
- Phone calls
- Emails
- How to improve communication between school and home?
 - Dojo post
 - More phone calls
 - More emails
- Assisting with school events
 - Field trips and chaperoning
 - Sporting events
- Would you prefer to schedule PTC ahead of time?
 - 57% - Yes
 - 20% - Walk-in
- Do you feel you are well informed of your child's progress?
 - 82% - Yes
- Do you read to your child at home?
 - 73% - Yes
- How do you feel about the level of homework?
 - 80% - we give just the right amount of homework
- For my child, learning has been
 - 72% - easy and exciting
 - 20% - hard and challenging
- For my child, learning Math has been
 - 65% - easy and exciting
 - 27% - hard and challenging
- My child needs the most support in
 - 37% - Reading
 - 21% - Math
 - 18% - Social and Emotional support
- How does your scholar feel about going to school?
 - 67% - excited
 - 18% - indifferent
 - 5% - unhappy
- What policy or policies would you like to change at Voyageur?
 - 20% - Cell phone
 - 22% - Uniform
 - 7% - Tardy
 - 4% - Retention

F. NWEA Math testing status

- 98% complete

G. Support Staff Services Survey

- 92% complete

H. Middle School Promotion vs Retention

- $\frac{1}{3}$ of middle school students are at risk of retention
- We are offering morning and after school tutoring 3 days a week
- Saturday Achievers in Math

I. PTC Quarter 1 vs Quarter 2

- 52% attended conferences in November 2024
- 54% attended conferences in January 2025

J. MAP Growth - [Melissa Lopez](#)

- Fall 2024 to Winter 2025
 - Achievement Data
 - Average point increase in Math range from 4 points to 25 points for grades K - 5
 - Average point increase in Math range from 2 points to 6 points for grades 6 - 8
 - Average percentage points in Math for K - 8 is 7 points
 - Students in grades K - 5 averaged from 1 to 8 points in Reading
 - 1st grade dropped 2 points in Reading
 - 6th grade students dropped 4 points in Reading
 - 7th grade students achieved 5 points in Reading
 - 8th grade students remained constant in Reading

4. 9-12 School Leader Report - Patrician Crosson

A. Credit Recovery Efforts

- Continual training about grading
- Mastery of content knowledge

B. 49 students have completed courses

C. 67 students, grades 10th - 12th, are enrolled in Credit Recovery

D. 35 students, 49%, are still working on a course

E. Credit Recovery Comparisons

- Juniors in danger
 - 6 students - Nov 2024
 - 7 students - Feb 2025
 - Total Juniors - 49 - November 2024
 - Total Juniors - 30 - February 2025
- Seniors in danger of not graduating
 - 11 students - Nov 2024
 - 6 students - Feb 2025
 - Total Seniors - 44 - November 2024
 - Total Seniors - 28 - February 2025

F. NWEA Data Reading

- 71st Growth Median
- Achievement
 - Fall - 30
 - Winter - 41

G. NWEA Math

- 42% growth
- Achievement - 27 - 29
- Action Steps
 - Conducting data dive with ELA and Math
 - Working with ELA and Math teachers
 - Focus on instructional areas

H. Success and Challenges

- Many students have bought into testing
- Hired Para Pro for 9th grade
- Recognize top growers and scorers

I. Final exemptions Winter / Spring

- Honor Roll
 - 34% of 9 - 12 earned 3.0 or higher for quarter 2
 - 9th grade = 20 students
 - 10th grade = 39 students
 - 11th grade = 35 students
 - 12th grade = 44 students

J. 1st semester offered Dual Enrollment

- Offered during 6th hour
- Speech 101
 - 14 students enrolled
 - 9 dropped
- Business 150
 - 20 students enrolled
 - 9 dropped
- Students dropped the course
 - Sports
 - Couldn't stay after school
 - Conflict with their last hour class

K. Students showing interest for Semester 2

- 20 students in each course
- Students will be able to leave after 5th hour

L. Discipline Data

- 91 suspensions
- 2024 Data
 - 262 suspensions by June 2024
- Top infractions
 - Physical / Verbal altercations or threats of violence
 - Possession of Drugs (Vaping)
- Referrals by Grade
 - 9th - 12%
 - 10th - 44%
 - 11th - 20%
 - 12th - 24%
- Top 3 infractions
 - Skipping
 - Insubordination
 - Disruptive Behavior
- Discipline Efforts
 - Restorative training, PD
 - On track to reduce suspensions by 50%
 - 9th grade had more referrals every month
 - Town Hall meetings held with each grade
 - Started a girls mentoring program in January

- o Since the start of semester 2, have seen an improvement in behavior

Discussion Items

1. Dec / Jan Financial Report - **None**
2. Fall Board Policies
 - Will discuss at the Board Meeting in March
3. Student Discipline Expulsion Recommendation
 - A fight breaks out involving 6 girls.
 - 4 girls jumped on one girl.
 - Another student jumped in the fight to help her friend
 - 2 students who initiated the fight are up for expulsion
 - Each student was given a chance to speak on what occurred and asked how things could have been different
4. Construction Phase 2 Change Order
 - Will schedule a special board meeting to discuss in detail. Need to see something in writing that outlines all of the changes

Action Items

1. Motion to Approve the Dec / Jan Financial Report
Moved by Redmer, supported by Gibbs
Yes – 7 No – 0
2. Motion to Adopt the Fall Board Policies
(Will schedule a meeting to further discuss)
No Action Proposed at this time
3. Motion to Approve Expulsion Recommendation
(Will schedule a meeting to further discuss. School Admin will provide written response)
No Action Proposed at this time
4. Motion to Approve Phase 2 Change Order
(Will schedule a special meeting next Thursday with construction company)
No Action Proposed at this time

Board Committee Reports/ Board Individual Comments

1. Specialized Services Committee - None
2. Budget Development Committee – None
3. Academic Excellence Committee - will schedule a meeting
4. Policy Committee – will schedule a meeting
5. Technology Committee – None
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 18, 2025 at 6:35pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:20 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.

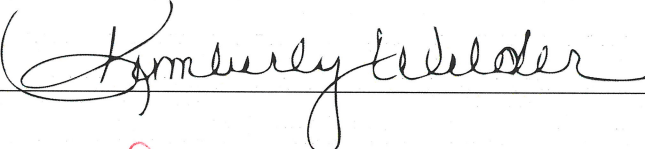
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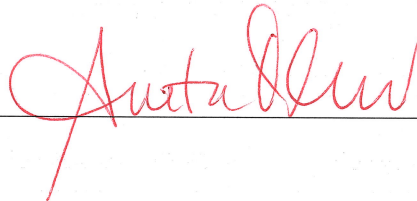
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Board Recording Secretary  Date 2-21-25

Board Secretary  Date 3/18/25