



**Voyageur Academy
Board of Directors**

**4366 Military
Detroit, MI 48210
P 313.748.4000
F 313.808.1033**

**Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 15, 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 – **Excused Absence**, (Oakland County, Oakland Twp., MI)
Laura Benedict – **Excused Absence**, (Oakland County, Oakland Twp., MI)

Others Present: Rod Atkins(Deputy Superintendent), Angela Gilbert(TRG), Jason Rider(IT Director), Patricia Crosson(HS Principal), Belinda Cleary(K-12 ESL Director), Jeneen Castleberry(VA 3rd grade teacher), Roxanne Dawson(K-12 Security) and Ronnie Phillips(Ferris State University)

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

Anita T. Gibbs

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve the April 15, 2025 Board Meeting Agenda
Moved by Benning, supported by Smith
Yes - 5 No - 0

Consent Items

Motion to Approve the March 18, 2025 Proposed Board Meeting Minutes
Moved by Smith, supported by Benning
Yes – 5 No – 0

Correspondence

Ferris State Board Newsletter

ESP/School

Admin, Contractors

1. Authorizer Report - Ronnie Phillips
 - A. April Newsletter
 - Budget
 - B. Field Trip
 - C. Leadership Academy
2. Superintendent Report - Vergil Smith
 - A. Phase 2
 - Concrete slab poured
 - Masonry work done
 - Carpenter arriving later this week
 - B. Phase 1
 - Final Inspection is not complete
 - Alarm inspection passed
 - Waiting for results of the elevator inspection which was done today
 - C. Soil Testing
 - Playground Mitigation
 - Can not use playground because of contaminated soil
 - Mulch must be removed
 - 18 inches of contaminated soil must be removed
 - 3 quotes
 - Highest is \$40,000
 - Lowest is between \$15,000 - \$18,000
 - D. Leadership Team
 - Summer trip to Orlando for Charter School Conference
 - FSU Leadership training in Traverse City, July 23 - July 24, 2025
 - FSU will reimburse \$1,000
 - E. Working with HR Attorney
 - Looking to hire International, quality teachers
 - Focusing on math
 - Potential candidate from Philippines
3. IT Director Report - Jason Rider
 - A. All devices are online and healthy
 - B. Final UPS unit battery replaced
 - C. E-Rate will cover the batteries
 - D. Help Desk
 - 60 tickets
 - E. Testing occurred the last couple of weeks

F. Access Control has been installed in new building

4. K-8 School Leader Report - Rod Atkins

A. 170 Observations

B. Culture

- 500 students K - 5
- 290 students 6 - 8
- Suspensions

Month	Elementary	Middle School
Sept	10	17
Oct	20+	25
Nov	9	12
Dec	increase	increase
Jan		decrease
Feb	increase	
Mar	increase	
TOTAL	127	138

- What are the causes for the suspensions?

- Constant classroom disruptions
- Insubordination
- Physical Altercation
- Defiance
- Stealing
- Non-compliance
- Disrespect
- Vaping
- Skipping
- Cheating
 - 48% - middle school girls
 - 52% - middle school boys
- What are we doing?
- PBIS
- Mentoring thru extracurricular activities
- Check In / Check Out
- Conflict Resolution
- Restorative Circle
- PTC Re-Admits
- Informal Mentoring

C. Grades - 3rd Quarter

Grade	3.0 - 4.0	2.5 - 2.9	2.0 - 2.49	0.0 - 1.9
6th	32%	20%	19%	29%
7th	25%	24%	19%	32%
8th	48%	23%	16%	23%
TOTAL	36%	23%	18%	23%

- What happens at the end of Quarter 3?
 - Cumulative GPA's are assessed for student promotion or retention
 - Direct

strategic conversations for those in danger

- Case by case analysis for those less than 2.0
- Summer school
- PTC

D. PSAT with Praneet

- Senior research specialist from the University of Michigan
- Structuring a virtual PSAT Prep
- Math will be the primary focus
- Weekend program targeting top 7th grade students
- 1 hour to 1.5 hours
- Initiation will be the weekend of April 26, 2025
- Criteria
 - Minimum GPA of 3.75
 - Solid school attendance
 - Parent sign-off
 - M-Step preferred proficient in math
 - 10 sessions starting April - June
 - Pre-test PSAT

5. 9-12 School Leader Report - Patricia Crosson

A. Credit Recovery Comparisons

Grade	Nov 2024	March 2025	April 2025
10	49	52	48
11	53	38	29
12	44	17	10

- Students in Danger of Graduating
 - 10th Grade - 13
 - 11th Grade - 10
 - 12th Grade - 5

- Credit Recovery Efforts
 - Continual training about grading and mastery of content knowledge
 - Right Now Goal
 - Students to complete as many classes as possible so that they do not have to enroll in summer school

B. Testing week April 7 - April 11, 2025

- 9th PSAT - 91%
- 10th PSAT - 84%
- 11th SAT - 96%
- 11th MSTEP - 99%
- 11th Workkeys - 96%

C. Discipline Data

- 140 suspensions
- Top infractions since the Feb Board meeting
 - Vaping
 - Skipping
 - Fighting/Threats/Verbal Altercations

D. Career Trade Center Data

- 10th grade students - 93
 - 59.1% would like to attend a 2 or 4 year University
 - 9.7% would be interested in a Trade Program onsite
 - 29% are undecided
 - 58 students provided a response to being interested in the trade program on site
 - Plumbing - 15 = 25.9%
 - Electrical - 36 = 62.1%
 - HVAC - 28 = 48.3%
- Survey Findings
 - 0% of females signed up for the current trade programs
 - 97% of skilled trade workers are male
 - In order to offer Cosmetology, students have to complete 1500 hours of service
- Trade Program Request:
 - Culinary Arts
 - Healthcare
 - Construction
 - Art
 - Welding
 - Technology
- Student concerns:
 - No trades geared toward female students

E. Career Day is scheduled for April 25, 2025

- 25 Guest Speakers

F. Future Board Review

- Revision of Scholar Code of Conduct
- Attendance Policy
- Dual Enrollment Policy
- FAFSA Policy
- Pass/Fail Policy
- Credit Recovery Policy
- PSAT/SAT Goal Consideration Review
- SAT Score Incentive Review

Discussion Items

1. March 2025 Financial Report
 - General Fund Revenue
 - Budget vs To Date
 - Negative 5.1%
2. Ferris State Mid-Contract Review
 - Allows an opportunity for a rebuttal from the school
 - Operations, Compliance, Governance and Fiscal Policy
 - High score marks
 - Academics
 - Continue with current program
3. 2025-2026 School Calendar
 - In alignment with previous calendar
 - 181 School Days
 - School will be closed for Election Day
 - This is new to the calendar

Action Items

1. Motion to Approve the March 2025 Financial Report
Moved by Benning, supported by Williams
Yes – 5 **No – 0**
2. Motion to Approve Ferris State Mid-Contract Review
Moved by Smith, supported by Gibbs
Yes - 5 **No - 0**
3. Motion to Approve 2025-2026 School Calendar
Moved by Smith, supported by Williams
Yes - 5 **No - 0**

Board Committee Reports/ Board Individual Comments

1. Specialized Services Committee - Met in April
2. Budget Development Committee – Will schedule a meeting for May
3. Academic Excellence Committee - None
4. Policy Committee – None
5. Technology Committee – None
6. Athletic Committee – None
7. Security Committee – None
8. Facility Use Committee – None

Board Retreat scheduled for May 3, 2025 at Somerset Inn

- American Breakfast will be served at 8:30
- 9:00 start time
- All day beverage service
- Snacks at 10:00
- Lunch at noon
- Need final count on who will present
- The Voyageur School District Admin team will not be available to attend
- Will need to reschedule the retreat

Call to the Public None

Announcements The next Board of Directors meeting will be May 20, 2025 at 6:35pm.

Adjournment Motion to adjourn at 7:48 pm
Moved by Benning, supported by Williams
Yes – 5 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.

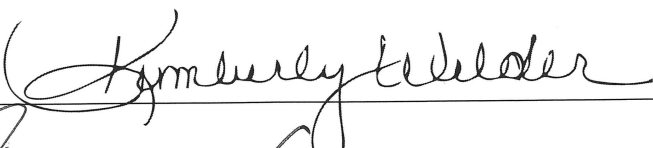
*Complaints or concerns regarding Board members or school employees associated with the Academy shall first be addressed in writing and delivered to the Board President at least five (5) days prior to the Board meeting or such complaints or concerns shall not be heard by the Board. The Board will not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

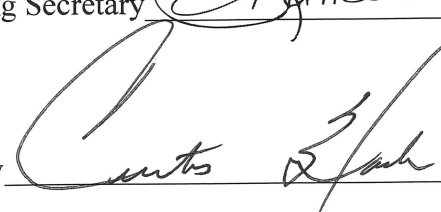
This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public comment during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.

*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.

Board Recording Secretary  Date 4-20-25

Board Secretary  Date 5-20-28