



**Voyageur Academy
Board of Directors**

**4366 Military
Detroit, MI 48210
P 313.748.4000
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**Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 20, 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 – **Excused Absence**, (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), Jason Rider(IT Director), Patricia Crosson(HS Principal), Belinda Cleary(K-12 ESL Director), Joe Gagnon(K-12 Director), Dasha Simkins(VA Kindergarten teacher), Shirleia Franklin(VA Kindergarten teacher), Jennifer Dobbins(VA 2nd grade teacher), Jeneen Castleberry(VA 3rd grade teacher), Ronnie Phillips(Ferris State University), John Clark and Travis Swieringa

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

Approval of Agenda Motion to Approve the May 20, 2025 Board Meeting Agenda
Moved by Benning, supported by Williams
Yes - 6 No - 0

Agenda Amendment/s:

ESP/School Admin, Contractors

Line item 2 - add name of presenter
Add Line item 3a - VCP Alumni Share Out

**Agenda Amendments
Approval**

Motion to Adopt the May 20, 2025 Agenda Amendments
Moved by Smith, supported by Benning
Yes - 6 No - 0

Consent Items

Motion to Approve the April 15, 2025 Proposed Board Meeting Minutes
Moved by Williams, supported by Smith
Yes – 6 No – 0

Correspondence

Ferris State Board Newsletter

**ESP/School
Admin, Contractors**

1. Authorizer Report - Ronnie Phillips
 - A. Self Evaluation
 - B. PD's have been satisfied
 - C. Leadership Conference
 - School Leaders
 - D. Adding 2 more charter schools to FSU's portfolio
 - E. Beth and Ronnie will attend HS Graduation
2. Family Medical Center Presenter - Travis Swieringa
 - A. Federally Qualified Health Center
 - B. Provide a therapist in the school
 - Bill insurance companies
 - No student will be turned down
 - Sliding fee scale
 - Available for staff and family members
 - Will see students throughout the day
 - No after school services
 - Will provide services 2 days a week
 - Students under 14 will need parental/guardian consent
 - Will be able to provide ongoing treatment
3. Superintendent Report - Vergil Smith
 - A. Soil Testing
 - Playground can now re-open
 - B. Phase 2 of construction of the expansion building
 - Floors polished
 - Elevator inspection did not pass due to electrical
 - C. Offer Letters for next year
 - Next year's budget is built
 - State Aid will increase by \$18
 - 11BB and 23G - Grants that will be gone
 - 31AA still in place

- Federal Grants
 - 20% decrease
- 31A dollars can be used to help fund positions

3a. VCP Alumni Share Out

A. Students who have completed their freshman year of college

- Tatum
 - University of Michigan
 - 3.5 GPA
 - Major in Psychology
- Alondra
 - Wayne State University
 - 2.85
 - Nursing
- Kassidy
 - North Carolina A&T
 - 3.6
 - Nursing
- Ariana B.
 - Lawrence Tech University
 - 3.2
 - Psychology
- Faith M.
 - Bowling Green State University
 - 3.9
 - Neuroscience
- Tyler
 - Bowling Green State University
 - 4.0
 - Business and Marketing

4. IT Director Report - Jason Rider

- A. No major outages
- B. Goal is to get through the end of the school year without major outages
- C. Help Desk is doing well
- D. Charter Tech still doing a good job
- E. Finishing up testing
- F. May 6 had a regional issue with NWEA
 - a. resolved within an hour
- G. Travon Sanders resigned
- H. New person assigned to replace Travon
- I. This week is his first week by himself

5. K-8 School Leader Report - Rod Atkins

- A. Re-Enrollment

- Projecting 1,365 for 2025-2026 SY
 - Current re-enrollment totals are 959
 - Will need 406 new applications
- Re-enrollment Totals
 - 485 students in grades K - 5
 - 448 students are returning
 - 21 not sure
 - 17 not returning
 - 271 students in grades 6 - 8
 - 219 students are returning
 - 39 not sure
 - 13 not returning
 - 370 students in grades 9 - 11
 - 292 students returning
 - 71 not sure
 - 7 not returning

6. 9 - 12 School Leader Report - Patricia Crosson

A. Credit Recovery

Grade	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025
10	52	48	40
11	38	29	24
12	17	10	5

B. Credit Recovery Efforts

- Continual training about equitable grading practice and mastery of content knowledge. Grades need to align with student mastery
- Next school-year teachers will have to submit a failure report to ensure the following:
 - Communication to parent
 - Make-Up work session
 - Reteach/Reassess Evidence
 - Gradebook audit reflection
- 164 Courses have been completed as of today.
- As of today 94 students, grades 9-12, are enrolled in credit recovery
- May/June 2025 Goal
 - For students to complete as many classes as possible so that they do not have to enroll in summer school.

- C. SAT scores will be released June 30, 2025
- D. NWEA Spring Test data will be available by the June Board meeting
- E. Final Evaluation Teacher Preliminary Data
 - 83% are effective
 - 16% need support
 - 30% of teacher evaluations come from:
 - 3 year average SAT/PSAT
 - 3 year average MSTEP Science and Social Studies
 - NWEA current Fall to Spring
 - SLO (Student Learning Objective)
 - Use Charlotte Danielson and I Observation Evaluation Tool
- F. Preliminary Findings
 - Revision of planning tool; non-negotiables
 - Norm what instruction looks like at VCP
 - Academic focus for next school year
 - Celebrate classroom environment, building relationships, following Cougar Code
- G. Class of 2025
 - 75 students plan to attend a 4 year college
 - 12 will attend a 2 year college
 - 21 will go to Trade School
 - 6 will enter the workforce
 - 1 will go to the military
- H. FAFSA Award from DCAN
 - FAFSA completion rate of 50% or higher
 - Lunch and Learn end of the year celebration June 5, 2025

Discussion Items

1. April 2025 Financial Report - **None**
2. Annual Board Calendar
 - Need to adjust July 21, 2026 date to indicate meeting suspended

Action Items

1. Motion to Approve the April 2025 Financial Report
Moved by Benning, supported by Williams
Yes – 6 No – 0
2. Motion to Approve Board Calendar by modifying July 21, 2026 date
Moved by Williams, supported by Smith
Yes - 6 No - 0

Board Committee Reports/ Board Individual Comments

1. Specialized Services Committee - will schedule a meeting
2. Budget Development Committee – will meet in June
3. Academic Excellence Committee - will schedule a meeting
4. Policy Committee
 - Waiting on policies
5. Technology Committee – None
6. Athletic Committee – will schedule a meeting in June

7. Security Committee – will schedule a meeting
8. Facility Use Committee – None

Call to the Public

Parent of a 3rd grade student expressed concern that her child is experiencing symptoms of PTSD. Parent feels student's 504 Plan is not being followed. Student is now at home, in a controlled environment. It was recommended by the Board President that the parent meet with the school superintendent to further discuss and to ensure all support is being afforded to the parent and student

Announcements

The next Board of Directors meeting will be June 17, 2025 at 6:35pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm
Moved by Benning, supported by Williams
Yes – 6 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.

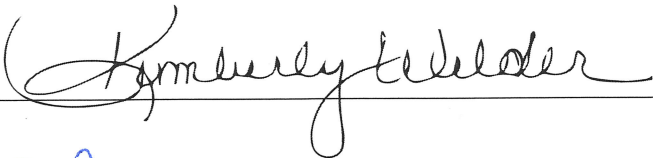
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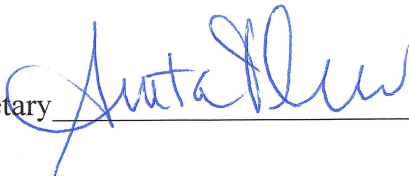
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Board Recording Secretary  Date 5-25-25

Board Secretary  Date 6/17/25