



**Voyageur Academy
Board of Directors**

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

**Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 17, 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), Joe Gagnon(K-8 Principal), Rod Atkins(Deputy Superintendent), Elijah Evans(Administrative Assistant), Dasha Simkins(VA Kindergarten teacher), Belinda Cleary(VA ESL Director), Jonea Stewart(VA 1st/2nd ParaPro), Jason Rider(IT Director), Shirlea Franklin(VA Kindergarten teacher, Ronnie Phillips(Ferris State University)

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

Anita T. Gibbs

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve the September 17, 2024 Board Meeting Agenda
Moved by Smith, supported by Benning
Yes - 6 No - 0

Correspondence

Ferris State Board Newsletter

Consent Items

Motion to Approve the August 20, 2024 Proposed Board Meeting and Annual Org. Minutes

Moved by Benning, supported by Smith

Yes – 6

No – 0

ESP/School

Admin, Contractors

1. Authorizer Report – Ronnie Phillips

A. CSO President Chris Loiselle will be visiting all schools soon and attending a board meeting to discuss new FSU practices

B. Ronnie will be conducting security checks, Voyageur did well on the first check, today

C. Ronnie asks if we are making progress towards our Water Management Plan, due next year. Vergil confirms we have engaged a vendor to assist with that plan and implementation

D. Ronnie discusses FSU's 4 Pillars of monitoring

2. ESP Report - Vergil Smith

A. Phase II of the construction project has a revision to eliminate the mezzanine, which will free up funding for the parking lot

B. Interior environmental testing results are back. Each building (4366 and 7601) has one area that may need further mitigation. We are awaiting direction from EGLE.

C. Vergil has applied and been approved for 11bb Grant – roughly \$27000 to be received and used on 70 Chromebook devices for K-2 students.

D. School will be partnering with CVS for sale of branded apparel. School will receive 7% of sales.

E. Admin team is meeting to begin writing our Internal Review for Ferris State's mid-contract review

3. IT Report - Jason Rider

A. No major outages

B. 75 help desk tickets opened and closed this year, so far

C. Testing starts this week, we have prepared properly and are ready

D. New A/V system is successfully installed in the HS gymnasium

4. K-8 School Leader Report – Rod Atkins

A. District Enrollment is at 1331, short of the 1365 goal, for now

B. largest 8th grade class in school history

C. 4 Social Workers on campus this year, the most in our history

D. District has a dress code compliance goal of 100% by 10/1/24

E. Cell Phone Policy is off to a good start, 100% compliance in Elementary, 87% in MS, 95% in HS

6. 9-12 School Leader Report – Patricia Crosson

- A. Engaging Varsity Tutors program to provide more structure to after-school tutoring and possibly SAT Prep program
- B. New cell phone policy, bullying policy, parent conduct policy, and discipline hearing procedures have been added to student code of conduct. We will discuss with the board further at future committee and board meetings.
- C. Gradebook changes include moving to 70% weight for mastery of knowledge assignments and 30% weight of formative assignments, in an attempt to better align GPAs with state assessment scores.
- E. 7 suspensions so far, 4 from the football game, goal is 132 for the school year, which is a 50% decrease from last year
- F. Title I Parent Meeting will be at our Open House on 9/19/24

7. Academic Data/Programming Presentation – Joe Gagnon

- SAT and PSAT 8/9/10 had showed a trend of closing the gap compared to the State up until this Spring
- Spring scores showed decreases for 8/9/10/ and 11th grade
- For K-8 NWEA Map testing, 7 of 9 grade levels achieved the projected growth objective in Math
- Only 2 of 9 grade levels achieved it in Reading
- New leadership teams in place for both schools have already began changing the culture for our staffs, for the better, raising level of professionalism
- School-Improvement Strategies are shared/discussed for both Math and Reading

Discussion Items

1. August Financial Report

Minika Benning asks about a check to S. Lee for \$2100. Vergil clarifies the payment is related to summer school pay.

Action Items

1. Motion to Approve the August Financial Report

Moved by Benning, supported by Gibbs

Yes – 6

No – 0

**Board Committee Reports/
Board Individual Comments**

- 1. Budget Development Committee – **None**
- 2. Academic Excellence Committee – **Will meet in October**
- 3. Policy Committee - **None**
- 4. Technology Committee – **Will meet in October**
- 5. Athletic Committee – **None**
- 6. Safety/Security Committee – **None**
- 7. Facility Use Committee – **None**
- 8. Specialized Services Committee – **Will meet in November**

Call to the Public

None

Announcements

The next Board of Directors meeting will be October 15, 2024 at 6:35pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 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.

*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 9-17-24

Board Secretary



Date

10/15/24