



**Voyageur Academy
Board of Directors**

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Detroit, MI 48210
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**Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 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 pm

Roll Call

Curtis Wade – **Present**, (Wayne County, Detroit, MI)
Minika Benning – **Present**, (Macomb County, Macomb, MI)
Anita T. Washington – **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: Vergil Smith(Superintendent), Rod Atkins(Deputy Superintendent & K-8 Principal), Melissa Lopez(VA DOI), Patricia Crosson(HS Principal), Jenny Childress(VCP DOI), Jason Rider(IT Director), Jeneen Castleberry(VA 3rd Grade Teacher), Dasha Simkins(VA Kindergarten Teacher), Andriana Farmer-Mohamed(VA Kindergarten Teacher), Shirleia Franklin(VA Kindergarten Teacher), Ronnie Phillips(Ferris State University) and Asia Brown(VA Parent)

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

Minika Benning

B. AWS outage

- Caused problems with our SSO (Classlink)
- Chromebooks were accessible with Google

C. One building issue

- Network closet by the kitchen had a voltage drop
 - Filtered drinking fountains, tapped into the circuit
- Battery backup has to work a little harder
- Quotes range from \$3,000 - \$10,000
 - Will need to run a whole new circuit

D. Help Desk

- 100+ tickets open and closed
 - 130 tickets this month
 - Aging chromebooks
 - Staff using help desk more for student chromebooks

E. AV Projector project

- Waiting on the electrical portion

F. Digital clocks added to hallways of the main building

G. Testing

- PSAT - 8th and 11th graders
 - Tested in the HS gym
 - No issues

4. K - 8 School Leader Report - Rod Atkins / [Melissa Lopez](#)

A. NWEA

- Competed testing over a week ago
- Added a couple more classes in middle school
- Addressed middle school students for not taking the fall testing seriously
 - Held an assembly
 - Created an honor section

Reading - overall baseline achievement

2024 vs 2025

Comparison

Grade	No. of Students	% of students between 41% - 60%
K	70	27%
1	81	20%
2	Median 88	Median 23%
3	88	35th 22%
4	88	43rd 20%
5	83	32nd 23%
6	108	16th 20%
7	83	25th 28%
8	97	37th 42%
7	43rd	49th
8	35th	48th

Math - overall achievement

baseline

Grade	No. of Students	% of students between 41% - 60%
K	82	11%
1	89	29%
2	91	29%
3	94	17%
4	92	17%
5	90	24
6	108	19
7	83	29%
8	104	18%

Comparison

Grade	2024 Median	2025 Median
1	25th	52nd
2	43rd	53rd
3	48th	50th
4	35th	35th
5	32nd	33rd
6	26th	32nd
7	34th	38th
8	24th	24th

B. Data from NWEA will be used to remix 4th- 8th grade

C. PSAT8

D. Apple Orchard field trips for grades K - 3

E. District Breast Cancer Walk held Oct 17, 2025

F. Scholastic Book Fair

G. Literacy Night

H. Math Fluency Family Night

I. Detroit Writes Detroit

J. Trunk or Treat

K. Bingo for Books

L. 3 new staff members

- 2 teachers and 1 para

M. Educational Goals

- Academic Growth for Grades 2 - 8 - Math

○ Overall Weighted Average

■ Target - 50

■ Voyageur Academy = 51

- Academic Growth for Grades 2 - 8 - Reading

○ Overall Weighted Average

■ Target - 50

■ Voyageur Academy = 58

N. Enrollment Trend 1999 - 2027

- 1999 - 148 students

- 2025 - 1379 students

- 2026 - Estimated 1,430 students

- 2027 - Estimated 1,475 students

O. Behavior

- Referrals
 - K-5 = 17
 - 6-8 = 16
- Detentions
 - K-5 = 4
 - 6-8 = 13
- Suspensions
 - K-5 = 7
 - 6-8 = 26

5. 9-12 School Leader Report - [Patricia Crosson/ Jenny Childress](#)

A. Fall 2025 NWEA Data

- Grades Tested
 - 9th - Math & Language Arts
 - 157 students
 - Math - 99% completion
 - National Average = 225
 - VCP = 215
 - 37% of students scored proficient
 - Reading - 96% completion
 - National Average = 216
 - VCP = 213
 - 52% of students scored proficient
 - 10th - Math & Language Arts
 - 139 students
 - Math - 96% completion
 - National Average = 227
 - VCP = 227
 - 48% of students scored proficient
 - Reading - 95% completion
 - National Average = 218
 - VCP = 215
 - 57% of students scored proficient
 - SpEd 9 - 11th - Math & Reading
 - 22 students
 - Math - 95% completion
 - 43% of students scored proficient
 - Reading - 95% completion
 - 24% of students scored proficient
 - AMP Goal
 - Bottom Line Target
 - The number of 9th and 10th grade students that achieved a 50th percentile score or above will increase by 10% or more (minimum of 5% each school year) or whichever is greater from the fall NWEA 2025 assessment to the spring 2027 NWEA assessment
 - Action Steps
 - Incorporate Data-driven small group instruction

- New curriculum being implemented (CPM) with Professional Development included for teachers to learn how to use CPM with fidelity
- Continued use of ALEKS for individualized targeted skills practice
- November 4 - NWEA PD for staff

B. Will start to incentivize things

- Grant proposal
 - 100 Challenge
 - Increase PSAT / SAT by 100 points, may receive \$100 gift card

Discussion Items

1. September 2025 Financial Report - None

2. Ferris State Competitive Grant

- Needs signature from Board President

Action Items

1. Motion to Approve the September 2025 Financial Report

Moved by Benning, supported by Redmer

Yes - 6

No - 0

2. Motion to Approve the Ferris State Competitive Grant

Moved by Williams, supported by Smith

Yes - 6

No - 0

3. Motion to Approve the Ferris State AMP

Moved by Smith, supported by Benning

Yes - 6

No - 0

Board Committee Reports/

Board Individual Comments

1. Specialized Services Committee - Will schedule a meeting

2. Budget Development Committee - Meeting scheduled for 11-3-25 @ 6:00 pm

3. Academic Excellence Committee - None

4. Policy Committee - Meeting scheduled for 10-28-25

5. Technology Committee -Will schedule a meeting

6. Athletic Committee - None

7. Security Committee - None

8. Facility Committee

- Sorority Phi Delta Kappa wants to use a classroom for a monthly meeting
 - Will start November - Spring
 - Saturday mornings
 - Facility Use Agreement is needed
- MS Robotic's Competition will be Saturday, December 1

Call to the Public

A parent expressed concern that her Kindergarten student does not want to attend school because of the behavior of a classmate. The classmate has put his hands on the teacher. Feels the classmate's behavior is mentally challenging. Would like to know if any protocols can be put in place for the behavior of the classmate.

The teacher also spoke on the behavior of the classmate. The classmate shows physical aggression.

The classmate has not received any type of repercussions due to the behavior. Recommendations were made to involve the school social worker, speak with the Culture team and provide an update to the board members

Announcements

The next Board of Directors meeting will be November 18, 2025 at 6:35pm

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:18 pm

Moved by Benning, supported by Smith

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.

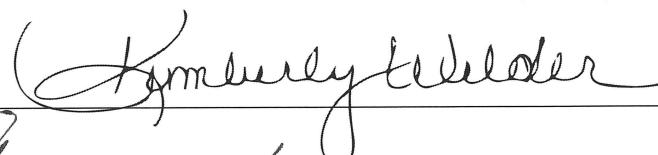
This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public comment during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.

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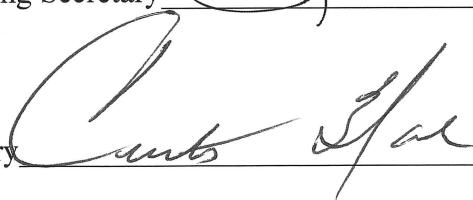
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Board Recording Secretary



Date 10-26-25

Board Secretary



Date 10/18/25