



**Voyageur Academy**

**Board of Directors**

4366 Military

Detroit, MI 48210

P 313.748.4000

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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

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to Approve the October 21, 2025 Board Meeting Agenda

Moved by Benning, supported by Smith

**Yes – 6**

**No - 0**

**Agenda Amendment**

ESP/School Admin, Contractors

- Remove line item #2, FY 25 Audit Presentation

**Approval of Agenda Amendment**

Motion to Approve the Agenda Amendment

Moved by Redmer, supported by Smith

**Yes - 6**

**No - 0**

**Consent Items**

Approval of the September 16, 2025 Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Benning, supported by Redmer

**Yes - 6**

**No - 0**

**Correspondence**

Ferris State Board Newsletter - October 2025

**ESP/School Admin, Contractors**

1. Authorizer Report – Ronnie Phillips

A. New Associate Director - Kelly Buckmaster

B. VA / VCP first Board to have completed all three PD requirements

C. In Person PD at VA scheduled Thursday, October 23, 2025

2. ESP Report - Vergil Smith

A. Architect made a design error in the ceiling of phase II of the CTE building

- Hired someone to fix the error
- Approved by fire inspector
- \$10,000 repair cost

B. Parking Lot

- Monahan can bid but will review bids from other contractors

C. Board Training

- Thursday, October 23, 2025
- Ferris State visit Tuesday, October 28, 2025
  - Tour of campus and CTE Building

D. Ferris State Competitive Grant

- \$20,000
  - CTE equipment, refrigeration units, plumbing platforms

E. Budget

- \$10,050 per pupil
- Budget Committee Meeting scheduled within the next two weeks

F. CBIZ

- November 1, budget audit has to be submitted to MDE
- Will hold a special meeting 10-28-25 at 6:30 pm
- Patrick Sweeney will not be able to attend this meeting; John Weir, TRG CFO, will attend

3. IT Director Report - Jason Rider

A. No major internal outages

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

- Completed 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	88	23%
3	88	22%
4	88	20%
5	83	23%
6	108	20%
7	83	28%
8	97	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**

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

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

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

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\*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.

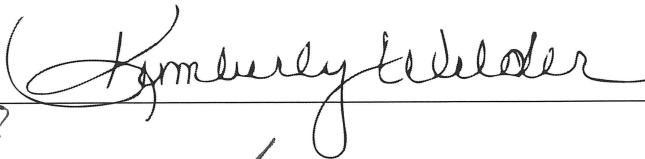
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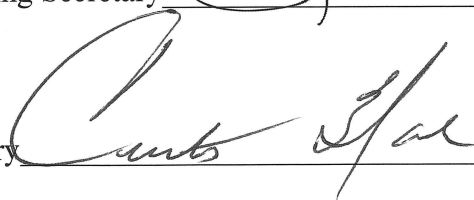
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Board Recording Secretary



Date 10-26-25

Board Secretary



Date 10/18/25