

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF VIRGINIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64, CASS COUNTY, WHICH WAS HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024, IN THE VIRGINIA CUSD 64 MEDIA CENTER.

PRESIDENT CASEY FRENCH CALLED THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ANSWERING PRESENT SARAH BROCKHOUSE, BETH COX, DUSTIN FRITSCHÉ, GARY BELL, STEPHANIE HOBROCK, CASEY FRENCH AND MARC GIOVANNINI.

ALSO, PRESENT WERE SUPERINTENDENT MEKELLE NEATHERY, JR/SR PRINCIPAL MATT OWENS, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL JEFF BOURNE, LINDA BROWN, AND NEWS MEDIA MICHELLE CARTY.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED BY ALL THAT WERE PRESENT.

MR. FRENCH ASKED THE BOARD AND OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT TO JOIN HIM IN A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE RECENT SCHOOL SHOOTING IN WISCONSIN.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. BROCKHOUSE AND SECONDED BY MRS. COX TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION THE EXECUTIVE SESSION 10) THE PLACEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (10). ROLL CALL:

COX,	YES	GIOVANNINI,	YES
FRITSCHÉ,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
HOBROCK,	YES	FRITSCHÉ,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FRITSCHÉ AND SECONDED BY MR. BELL TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, THE BILLS, PAYROLL REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORTS THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2024, AND APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF NOVEMBER 18, 2024. ROLL CALL:

GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHÉ,	YES
HOBROCK,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
BELL	YES	COX,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD REGARDING FINANCING OPTIONS THAT COULD BE FURTHER EXPLORED TO ASSIST WITH CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT ARE BEING EXPLORED AT THIS TIME. IT WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM STIFEL PRESENT AT THE JANUARY MEETING TO FURTHER DISCUSS THESE OPTIONS.

A REPORT WAS PROVIDED BY THE EXTRACURRICULAR COMMITTEE FROM THEIR MEETING HELD IN DECEMBER. INFORMATION SHARED WITH THE BOARD WAS DISCUSSIONS OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTED NUMBERS FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASONS. THE COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED OPTIONS OF EXPANDING ATHLETIC TEAMS TO POSSIBLY INCLUDE HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY. FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE GATHERED BY MRS. NEATHERY AS SHE CONTACTS CO-OP PARTNERS TRIOPIA AND MEREDOSIA. ALSO DISCUSSED WAS AN UPDATE ON THE STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR EXTRACURRICULAR TEAMS/CLUBS. ALL THREE SCHOOLS HAVE MET AND MADE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO ENSURE POLICIES AND PRACTICES ARE EQUITABLE WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE. AN UPDATE REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 30 SECOND SHOT CLOCK BEING IMPLEMENTED BY IHSA FOR THE

2026-2027 SEASON. EQUIPMENT WILL NEED TO BE PURCHASED TO ALIGN WITH THIS UPDATED RULING TO BE ABLE TO HOST EVENTS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: MR. BOURNE WANTED TO GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO THE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS FOR ALL OF THEIR HARDWORK FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER.

MR. OWNENS HIGHLIGHTED THE JR. HIGH GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAMS FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL SEASONS AND OTHER SPORTS THAT ARE OFF TO A GREAT START. HE SAID THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS A LOT OF POSITIVES HAPPENING IN AND AROUND THE BUILDING.

MRS. NEATHERY HIGHLIGHTED THE HEALTH AND LIFE SAFETY CHECK THE SCHOOL HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED. THE DISTRICT RECEIVED GOOD FEEDBACK AND POSITIVE REVIEWS.

ONE FOIA REQUEST RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH FROM SMART PROCURE. THE RESPONSE WAS SENT BACK WITHIN 24 HOURS.

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING WERE THE OPERATING FUND BALANCE REDUCTION PLAN REPORT AND THE VISION 2030 PLAN WAS REVIEWED. BOARD PRESIDENT CASEY FRENCH ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE TRIPLE III CONFERENCE HE ATTENDED IN CHICAGO. HE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD INFORMATION HE LEARNED DURING DIFFERENT SESSIONS HE WENT TO. HE ENCOURAGED BOARD MEMBERS TO TRY AND ATTEND FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES AS THE INFORMATION WAS BENEFICIAL.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. HOBROCK AND SECONDED BY MR. FRITSCHKE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION [5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1)] AT 7:47 PM TO CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE OR DISMISSAL OF CERTIFIED AND/OR NON-CERTIFIED STAF AND [5 ICLS 120/2 (C) (10)]. THE PLACEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS. ROLL CALL:

BROCKHOUSE, YES	FRITSCHKE, YES
BELL, YES	COX, YES
HOBROCK, YES	GIOVANNINI, YES
FRENCH, YES	

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. HOBROCK AND SECONDED BY MR. BELL TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:14 PM. ROLL CALL:

COX, YES	BELL, YES
FRITSCHKE, YES	GIOVANNINI, YES
HOBROCK, YES	BROCKHOUSE, YES
FRENCH, YES	

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. HOBROCK AND SECONDED BY MR. FRITSCHKE TO APPROVE THE PERSONNEL REPORT AS PRESENTED HIRING NATHAN CHILTON WITH THE REASSIGNMENT TO HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHER STARTING THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, APPROVING FMLA FOR RUTH SIMMONS EFFECTIVE 10/7/2024, HIRING LYNZE BRUNK AS A SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL EFFEVTIVE 11/18/2024 AND ACCEPTING WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF CAROLYN HARRIS AS A PARAPROFESSIONAL EFFECTIVE 12/20/2024. ROLL CALL:

GIOVANNINI, YES	FRITSCHKE, YES
BELL, YES	COX, YES
HOBROCK, YES	BROCKHOUSE, YES
FRENCH, YES	

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FRITSCHÉ AND SECONDED BY MRS. HOBROCK TO APPROVE THE VIRGINIA CUSD#64 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN. ROLL CALL:

COX,	YES	BELL,	YES
FRITSCHÉ,	YES	GIOVANNINI,	YES
HOBROCK,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. HOBROCK AND SECONDED BY MR. FRITSCHÉ TO APPROVE THE 2024 TAX LEVY. ROLL CALL:

COX,	YES	BELL,	YES
FRITSCHÉ,	YES	GIOVANNINI,	YES
HOBROCK,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FRITSCHÉ AND SECONDED BY MR. BELL TO APPROVE THE SECOND READ OF BOARD POLICIES 2:105, 2:120, 4:30, 4:60, 4:150, 4:170, 5:10, 5:20, 5:90, 5:120, 5:125, 6:60, 6:135, 6:270, 7:10, 7:100, 7:180, 7:200 AND 8:10. ROLL CALL:

GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHÉ,	YES
BELL,	YES	COX,	YES
HOBROCK,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. HOBROCK AND SECONDED BY MRS. BROCKHOUSE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:18 PM WITH ALL SAYING AYE.

CASEY FRENCH, PRESIDENT

DUSTIN FRITSCHÉ, SECRETARY

