

The rescheduled special meeting of the Virtual Learning Academy of St. Clair County Board of Trustees was held on April 24, 2024 at VLA. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary, Gilbert; Kathleen Kish; Fran McBride; Cynthia Raymo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan DeGrow

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Josh Everitt, VLA Principal; Jason Stier, VLA Curriculum Opportunity Coordinator; Jean Sturtridge, RESA Director of Legal Services; Brenda Tenniswood, RESA Superintendent; Keli Wilson; VLA Business Manager; Liz Yanik, VLA Program Coordinator/Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

None

ACTION ITEMS:

A. Approval of Minutes (*Enclosure #1*)

It was moved by Cynthia Raymo and supported by Fran McBride to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024 meeting as presented.

PUT TO A VOTE: All: Yes **Motion: Carried**

B. Approval of Bills (*Enclosure #2*)

It was moved by Cynthia Raymo and supported by Mary Gilbert to approve the March 2024 bills (check numbers 3884 – 3895 for a total of \$97,491.32) as presented.

PUT TO A VOTE: All: Yes **Motion: Carried**

C. Approval of Dan DeGrow's Resignation

It was moved by Cynthia Raymo and supported by Mary Gilbert to approve Dan

DeGrow's resignation.

PUT TO A VOTE: All: Yes Motion: Carried

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

These projections were assembled to inform the board's discussion and direction related to VLA's structural deficit and short and long-term relocation options. These projections highlight staff positions as well as 3-year fund balance projections with the proposed renovation costs for the Blue Water Community Action site with and without staff reductions. It was noted that a target fund balance between 25-30% was ideal and that getting below 20% was dangerous.

A. Budget Projection 1 (*Enclosure #3*)

Brenda Tenniswood highlighted the first budget projection which delineates all staff positions.

B. Budget Projection 2 (*Enclosure #4*)

Brenda Tenniswood highlighted the second budget projection that includes all of the construction costs at the Blue Water Community Action site in a single year. Per Barton Malow, this will likely afford the most significant cost savings and also enable completion of the work in a timely manner.

C. Budget Projection 3 (*Enclosure #5*)

Brenda Tenniswood highlighted the third budget projection that includes all of the construction costs in a single year and also includes staff reduction (approximately \$105,000 total) to address the structural deficit.

ACTION ITEMS: VLA RELOCATION/RENOVATION

A. Timeline for Recommendations Related to Structural Deficit

The MDE memo (*Enclosure #6*) from Dr. Rice related to structural deficits was discussed as this scenario is affecting schools across the state. It was moved by Fran McBride and supported by Cynthia Raymo for the VLA administrative team to bring a minimum of two alternative options to reduce or restructure staff at a minimum total of \$104,579 by the May 15, 2024 board meeting.

PUT TO A VOTE: All: Yes Motion: Carried

B. Short-Term Option for Relocation

Josh Everitt shared that rather than VLA moving twice, it would make more sense to make one move directly to the Blue Water Community Action site. This was supported by both Brenda Tenniswood and Jean Sturtridge. It was recommended that VLA use this site as VLA's central hub with scheduled drop-in hours available to students. Students will be working primarily remotely while renovation work is being done to meet school code requirements. It was moved by Fran McBride and supported by Cynthia Raymo to approve the short-term relocation to the Blue Water Community Action site and for Jean Sturtridge to begin the process of developing a lease agreement with Blue Water

Community Action.

PUT TO A VOTE: All: Yes Motion: Carried

C. Long-Term Option for Relocation

Blue Water Community Action still remains the best option for VLA. The current French floorplan (*Enclosure #7*) was discussed. It was moved by Cynthia Raymo and supported by Mary Gilbert to move forward with the estimated renovation costs at the Blue Water Community Action site to meet school code requirements not to exceed \$1,000,000.

PUT TO A VOTE: All: Yes Motion: Carried

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Relocation Communication Plan

Josh Everitt provided an update on the relocation communication plan. He highlighted that the initial relocation communication letter is being mailed home on Thursday, April 25th. In addition, the communication letter will also be shared out electronically via the VLA app, Edgenuity announcements and the VLA website. On the VLA website, there is a "Relocation Information" section containing all important information, documents and an FAQ. On Monday, April 29th, VLA administration will be making the relocation announcement in the classrooms to open the dialogue with students and to reassure them that we have a new location, we are renovating it to best meet their needs, and encouraging students that we will be walking through this transition with them and providing the continued supports and services they need.

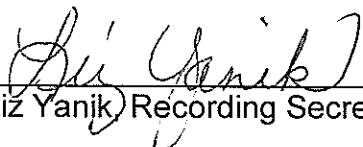
ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. at VLA.


ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Fran McBride and supported by Mary Gilbert to adjourn the April 24, 2024 meeting at 5:25 p.m.

PUT TO A VOTE: All: Yes Motion: Carried



Liz Yanik, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: 

Fran McBride, Secretary/Treasurer