

**VERMILION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MEETING AT 6:00 PM
JANUARY 13, 2025**

VHS COMMONS

The Organizational meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye

Mr. Habermehl led the Pledge of Allegiance with the December Citizens of the Month

BOARD BUSINESS

1.25 Mrs. Innes motioned that the Board approve Mr. Chris Habermehl Board President to serve as President Pro Tem for the January 13, 2025 Organizational Meeting. Mr. Benson seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved.

2.25 Mr. Habermehl motioned that the Board nominate Mrs. Shelly Innes as President of the Board. Mrs. Russell seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motioned approved.

3.25 Mr. Habermehl motioned that the Board nominate Mr. Mark Benson as Vice President of the Board. Mrs. Innes seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motioned approved.

4.25 Mrs. Innes motioned that the Board appoint Mr. Chris Habermehl to serve as Legislative Liaison with the Ohio School Board Association for 2025. Mr. Benson seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved.

5.25 Mr. Habermehl motioned that the Board appoint Mrs. Sara Stepp to serve as Student Achievement Liaison with the Ohio School Boards Association for 2025. Mrs. Russell seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved.

6.25 Mrs. Russell motioned that the Board adopt a resolution to approve the following Standing Resolutions for 2025.

1. establish the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 PM for the day and time of Regular Board Meetings for the year 2024.

2. Designate the Vermilion Photojournal as the **Official Newspaper**.

3. Direct the Treasurer to provide copies of the minutes of the last meeting two (2) days prior to the next Regular meeting, and to **waive the reading of the minutes** if said is done.

4. **Authorize the Treasurer to:**

- Pay on abstracts and invoices, monthly salaries and bills with the approved appropriations;
- Request from the Erie and Lorain County Auditor's advances on tax settlements as monies are collected;
- Invest the funds of the district as they are available;
- Establish funds as necessary when requested by law or Auditor of State;
- Approve student activity funds purpose statements and budgets;
- Open and read bids immediately after the time for filing of bids has expired;
- Establish a service fund in the amount allowed by law of \$3,500.00 for the Board of Education within the general fund for the remainder of fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026;
- Authorize the Treasurer to submit the Alternative Tax Budget for fiscal year 2026 to the Budget Commission in a timely manner;
- Authorize the Treasurer to serve as the designee of the members of the Board of Education for Public Records Training as required by law.

5. **Authorize the Superintendent or his designee to:**

- Act as the Purchasing Agent;
- Approve the emergency and temporary employment of personnel in compliance with policy;
- Accept resignations of personnel on behalf of the Board of Education;

- Authorize the building principals to sign contracts such as student activity contracts, student pictures, school yearbooks, athletic contests, and the like;
- Appoint the Superintendent or his designee as the Board of Education's hearing officer for appeals of suspensions and expulsions of students;
- Appoint the Superintendent as the Board's designee to hear student expulsion appeals;
- Appoint Dr. David Hile, Superintendent, to serve on the Vermilion City Parks and Recreation Board for 2025;
- Authorize the Superintendent to approve participation in state and federal programs and grants, and authorize him to appoint designees to represent Vermilion for FY26.

6. Appoint Pepple & Waggoner Ltd., as general legal counsel.

Mr. Benson seconded. ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved.

REGULAR MEETING

Legislative Report - no report

Student Liaison Report - Christen Schneid, VHS Art Teacher and Honors Art students presented information on the National Art Society. Students explained what the National Art Society is and how they contribute to the community.

Student Board Member Report - Miss Dodge gave an update on the first semester and how National Honor Society helps the students with their academics.

Public Participation - none

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

7.25 JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH in Ohio and the Vermilion Local Schools, and thus I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members.

School Board Recognition Month - January 2025

WHEREAS, our community values a quality education as a vital step along the pathway to success for our children; and

WHEREAS, Chris Habermehl, Sara Stepp, Krystal Russell, Shelly Innes, Mark Benson, Nick Freeman and Paige Dodge contribute greatly to this community through their service on the Vermilion Local School Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, these local decision-makers set the policies and procedures to govern all aspects of school district operation; and

WHEREAS, the school board keeps attention focused on progress toward the school district's goals and maintains two-way communications with all segments of the community; and

WHEREAS, these school board members are serving our community with integrity, honor, and a commitment to our children's future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. David Hile, do hereby declare my appreciation to the members of the Vermilion Local School Board and proclaim the month of January 2024, as **School Board Recognition Month** in Vermilion Local Schools. I hereby urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members, and in working with them to provide an education system that helps every adult help every child succeed today, tomorrow, and beyond.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 13th day of January, 2025.

David Hile, Ed. D., Superintendent, VLS

TREASURER'S REPORT AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

8.25 Mrs. Innes motioned the Board to approve the Financial Report for December 2024. Mr. Benson seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved.

9.25 Mr. Habermehl motioned the Board to approve the following donations:

- \$2,200.00 from Defense Soap to Vermilion Athletics
- \$700.00 from Erie Inflatable Adventures LLC to Vermilion Athletics for a banner
- \$990.00 from William Orwig to Speech and Debate
- \$250.00 from Vermilion Lions Club to Speech and Debate
- \$630.00 from McDonald's to Vermilion Athletics
- \$1,000.00 from Kiwanis Club to 7th Grade Chicago Trip
- \$5,000.00 from VFW Ohio Charity to VHS Bowling

Mrs. Russell seconded. ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved.

10.25 Mrs. Innes motioned to the Board to approve the 2025-2026 Alternative Tax Budget. Mr. Benson seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved.

11.25 Mr. Benson motioned to the Board to approve determining to proceed with submitting the the question of the issuance of school improvement bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$47,000,000 to the electors of the school district pursuant to section 133.18 of the revised code, at an election to be held on May, 6, 2025. Mrs. Russell seconded. ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

12.25 Mr. Habermehl motioned to the Board to approve the following items on the **Consent Agenda**:

- A. Approve the minutes of the Regular meeting for December 9, 2024 and the Special meeting of December 16, 2024.
- B. Approve the revision of District policies as recommended for the second read: 1520, remove 1542, 2265 and 3120.09.
- C. Approve the revision of District policies as recommended for the first read: 5136.01 and 6460.
- D. Approve the 2025-2026 VHS Course Guide with changes.
- E. Approve the payment of \$500.00 every six (6) months per the VTA Negotiated Agreement for the LPDC committee:
 - Nikki Fritz-Garcia
 - Jennifer Higley
 - Kelly Dupaski
 - Mike Kacur
 - Jay Lukasko
 - Heidi Riddle

F. Approve the Employment Action:

Retirement:

Resignation:

- Hannah Altair, Van Driver and Monitor effective December 20, 2024
- Samantha Taylor from Bus Monitor, effective December 20, 2024 to Van Driver effective January 1, 2025

G. Approve the One (1) year 2024-2025 Additional Duties Contract for the following:

- Brandon Gilbert, VHS Girls Assistant Wrestling Coach, L22, Step 6
- Barry Miller, SMS Assistant Wrestling Coach, L13, Step 0

H. Approve the position change of Brenda Labandonno from Custodian VHS to Head Custodian VHS, Step 2 and Wendy Balchak from VHS Head Custodian to VES Custodian, Step 7

I. Approve the One (1) year Substitute Contract for 2024-2025 for Rita Kopronica, Custodian, \$15.00/hr.

J. Approve the One (1) year Limited Classified Contract for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year:

- Kevin Hasenflue, VHS Custodian, Step 2
- Hope Shuster-Calhoun, VHS Custodian, Step 2

K. Approve the One (1) year Non-Teaching Supplemental Contract for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year to Marie Cox, Accompanist, L7, Step 0

Items to be removed from the Consent Agenda - None

Mrs. Russell seconded. ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved.

Dates and location of upcoming Board Meetings.

- Regular Meeting - Monday, February 10, 2025
- Regular Meeting - Monday, March 10, 2025
- Regular Meeting - Monday, April 14, 2025

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Beyer provided comments to the Board.

Mrs. Russell motioned to the Board for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Habermehl seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mrs. Stepp, absent; Mr. Benson, aye; Mr. Freeman, aye; Miss Dodge, aye. Motion approved. Time adjourned: 6:34 PM

ATTEST:

Board President

Treasurer