

# Voyagers Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2022

4:30 pm

## Mission

The mission of VES is to provide students with the necessary tools to lead meaningful and productive lives through hands-on learning, service to others, and environmental stewardship.

## Vision Statement

Starting at a level much deeper than just curriculum, the design of VES addresses the origins of learning and the fundamental well-being of students.

The foundation necessary to achieve the mission of our school is the establishment of a community of learners, composed of students, families, teachers, and staff who share the conviction that the best education takes place in an intentionally developed environment that nurtures, protects, challenges, and values every member of that community.

## **GROUP MEETING NORMS**

*Develop Group Norms 1x/year and refer back to them at the beginning of each meeting.*

*Be on time and stay on task.*

*Operate with transparency.*

*Maintain confidentiality.*

*Be well prepared and fully*

*present.*

*Maintain a sense of humor.*

*Be a solution-focused and*

*system thinker.*

*Be respectful and*

*non-judgmental (verbally and*

*non-verbally)*

## **ATTENDANCE**

Jessica: Absent      John x

Ryan x      Kari x

Kathy x      Gene x

Heather x      Jessi resigned

**OPENING A TOPIC / AGENDA ITEM**

In order to ensure group understanding of how the topic is situated within the overall district plan, note alignment with one of the four Strategic Areas of Focus by noting in the Agenda:

- Efficient and Effective Management (M)
- Culture, Language, and Community (C)
- Social-Emotional Learning (S)
- Academics (A)

If the topic does not align with one of these four areas, consider whether or not the topic needs to be covered or if it can be covered via e-mail communication instead.

**CLOSING THE LOOP / ENSURING COMMUNICATION**

In order to ensure group understanding of the decision and next steps, ask these questions:

Does the decision address the identified issue or concern?

What are the implications / outcomes of the decision for the team or other stakeholders?

What are the next steps?  
Who is responsible?

Timeline?  
How will it be communicated?

When will the decision/plan be reviewed and by whom?

**MEETING MINUTES**

Time	Agenda Item/Topic	Discussion	Decision/Result	Action/Steps
4:32 PM	Call to Order by Kari			
	Overview of Agenda			
	Consent agenda,	John approved with Gene seconding. Changing scholarship info earlier under reports. Remove 'approve board goals' until further notice.		
4:44 PM		John motions to approve changed agenda. Gene seconds.		
	Any conflict of interest?	No		
	11/21 meeting notes and financials.	John motion, Heather approve.		

4:37 PM	Scholarship info	<p>Kelly Martinka from NWMN Foundation. Basics of NWMN foundation and scholarship program. John asks for details. First steps: \$10,000 minimum to start a fund and the minimum will rise in the near future. Yearly scholarship = \$500. Application online, then board of directors votes. Info is available via online portal, too. Feb 1-April 15 applications for scholarship. Announcement before graduation. Money goes to the institution rather than individual students after the successful completion of their first semester.</p> <p>John: do any schools use incentives. Kelly: those are considered something different...merit awards.</p> <p>There is also a education fund with the same minimum. Difference is in the fee and clear plan of use.</p> <p>John: Do all schools in the area use their funds every year? Kelly: Yes, but some of the agreements need to be adjusted. Suggestion: hold a board meeting to discuss fundraising. Can start application beforehand. Thank you!</p>		
4:56 PM	Financials John Roscoe with Miller-McDonald	<p>Full financial statement audit. Handouts include board communication letter and summary packet. Slight change in reporting due to financial rules on leases. No compliance issues with MN statutes, Found some deficiency of controls and material weakness. Need more monitoring. Not a huge issue. Most issues are common and difficult due to size of school. Fund balance went up, but so did expenses. Explained a lot of pages.</p>		Internal training, fining? Outside auditor
5:25 PM	Director's Report	<p>Activities: MS expo, drum making, career exploration w/Seniors. Ice fishing, student council MS and HS, e-sports success, Partnership to BSU for weigh lifting. Revolution fitness upcoming. Wellness committee and water drinking competition. 7th grade trip postponed due to weather. Still working on finalizing clear discipline policy...LIT will do the work.</p>		
5:37 PM	Public comments	no		
5:37 PM	Election Committee	<p>We need to set one up. Election is April 12, 2023. Gene and John up in 2023. Kari also because she took Joel's role. New member would just finish Jessi's term by appointment.</p>	Start process in January.	Set up committee and find another parent or

				community member.
5:44 PM	Board Goals	Half way through the year, but need for Ryan's evaluation. Could fix in a working session and then approve at a board meeting.		Finalize board goals. Get info from Jessi.
5:46 PM	Finance meeting and Scholarship committee	Did not meet since the last board meeting.		
5:48 PM	Motion to approve Fiscal year audit	John motions, Heather seconds.	All in favor	
	Board Training	Tool from authorizer		
5:54 PM	Kari asks for motion to adjourn.	John motions, Gene seconds.	All in favor. No opposed.	

**NEXT MEETING(S):** Jan?