

Voyageurs Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes

Feb. 13, 2023

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

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Develop Group Norms 1x/year and refer back to them at the beginning of each meeting.</i> | |
| <i>stay on task.</i> | <i>Be on time and</i> |
| <i>transparency.</i> | <i>Operate with</i> |
| <i>confidentiality.</i> | <i>Maintain</i> |
| <i>and fully present.</i> | <i>Be well prepared</i> |
| <i>of humor.</i> | <i>Maintain a sense</i> |
| <i>solution-focused and system thinker.</i> | <i>Be a</i> |
| <i>non-judgmental (verbally and</i> | <i>Be respectful and</i> |
| <i>non-verbally)</i> | |

ATTENDANCE

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Jessica: x | John x |
| Ryan x | Kari x |
| Kathy x | Gene x |
| Heather x | Chari x |

MEETING MINUTES

| Time | Agenda Item/Topic | Discussion | Decision/ Result | Action/Steps |
|---------|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------|
| 4:33 PM | Call to Order by Jess | | | |
| | Kari motion to discuss agenda. | Gene second. | all approve | |
| 4:35 PM | Consent agenda | Heather motions to approve notes and financials. John: questions about funding from state and federal. Gen ed revenue roughly 12,000 per student from the state. Budget revision upcoming. We have a decent fund balance of roughly \$900,000. Osprey Wilds pays attention to fund balances to make sure money goes into programming. All in favor. No opposed. | | |
| | No conflict of interest | | | |
| 4:45 PM | Director's Report | Ryan: enrollment up again. School newspaper. Ad in Bemidji FYI. An eighth grader started today. In two weeks we gain two more HS students. Still looking for a 10th grader. Second e-week just happened. Slide show included in the Director's Report. Visit from AWCL 7th and 8th graders. 14 staff went to MAAP conference in Makato. Over 350 educators from all over the state attended. HS Expo on Feb. 1. Some families and middle school students visited. Chari suggests more warning on Expos. Next expo at Celebration of Learning on March 30. | | |
| 4:57 PM | Public comments. | John shared update on Project Graduate. Bemidji Pioneer and Calvary Lutheran church publish information. All 4th graders in the rural county schools (Not Bemidji) were given copies of a coloring book about graduating. Posters have been sent to the schools and shared publicly. All third graders in county schools (including Bemidji) will be getting dictionaries and bookmarks. 451 businesses support Project Graduate. Going to try a Spring conference on the need for graduation--probably in Red Lake. John presented at MAAP about 100% graduation rate and a book he published about Native American Education. John suggested a | Jess recommends making connections with other charter schools. | |

| | | | | |
|---------|------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | 100% committee or VES students. Peer-to-peer conversations work. | | |
| 5:06 PM | Discussion Items | | | |
| 5:15 PM | E-week calendar change | Change staff day from Tuesday, April 11 to Friday, April 14. There will be a little more rest time after e-week if we make the change. Advertisements via radio with students at KBUN NWMN Foundation scholarship. Need seed money. \$10,000. Jess suggests scholarship committee get together and organize a donation drive. Maybe organize donation matching from local organizations. | Ryan will Survey staff Chari will ask Chenoa Decide on action/raise \$. | |
| 5:24 PM | | Jess met with NW MN foundation about a small grant to integrate board more closely with classes. Professional and organizational development of \$2500. Is there any communication between families and board? Between board and other staff? Kari suggests board members come and visit us in our classrooms. | When can Jess get together with staff to complete grant application? | |
| 5:36 PM | | Director Evaluation Committee Jess is in charge. Add Heather and ask Becky. Board chair presents data to director. Committee decides how to evaluate. If changes, the rest of the board needs to approve. Board reviews data and condenses. Then official delivery method was previously one-on-one with Ryan. | Specific info from Becky Schuler. | |
| 5:41 PM | | Election. | Jess sending to Kathy | |
| 5:42 PM | Steps and lanes. | Equitable way to pay teachers similar to area schools. Compare to local schools and charters elsewhere. | | |

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| | | Chari suggests revisiting options and continuous ongoing conversation. Perhaps alternate pay scale review with budget review. | | |
| 6:09 PM | Financial Committee | CDs rolling over. Money in money market fund for more interest. | | |
| 6:11 PM | Donation | Queen size star quilt, raffle off to make \$ for scholarship fund. Gene's grandmother's friend. | | |
| 6:13 PM | E-week calendar | Kari motion to table e-week calendar change. Gene second. | All in favor. | |
| 6:13 PM | Scholarships | John motion to engage NWMN foundation for scholarship fund. Discussion about pros and cons of when to formalize relationship. Do we have a place to keep the money secure? Might need to discuss with auditor before approving. Motion as stated doesn't carry. John withdraws motion. Motion to put Scholarships as discussion item in March 13 agenda. Kari seconds | All in favor. | |
| 6:32 PM | Director Eval | Jess is head, Becky asked to join, ask Alison, plus add Heather. Data collected from staff, then data from board survey. Tabulated separately and then shared with board. Jess meets with Ryan to discuss afterwards. Kari motions that Jess, Becky, Alison, and Heather make up the director evaluation committee. | All in favor. | |
| 6:35 PM | Board Training | Oprey Wild "Sounding Board" on staff retention. Info sharing. | | |
| 6:39 PM | Jess asks for motion to adjourn. | Kari motions to adjourn. Gene seconds. All agree. | All in favor. No opposed. | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

NEXT MEETING(S): March 13, 2023 at 4:30.