

# Voyagers Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes

March 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>and stay on task.</i>	<i>Be on time</i>
<i>with transparency.</i>	<i>Operate</i>
<i>confidentiality.</i>	<i>Maintain</i>
<i>prepared and fully present.</i>	<i>Be well</i>
<i>sense of humor.</i>	<i>Maintain a</i>
<i>solution-focused and system thinker.</i>	<i>Be a</i>
<i>respectful and non-judgmental (verbally and non-verbally)</i>	<i>Be</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
4:31 PM	Call to Order by Jess		All present	
	Kari motion to discuss agenda.	Heather seconds.	all approve	
	No conflict of interest	Kari asks if we have a conflict because she and Heather are teachers and we are discussing pay.		
4:35 PM	Consent Agenda	John motions.	all approve	
4:36 PM	Director's Report	<p>Ryan: We have an AIPAC newsletter now.            MAACS day at the Capitol started with Mall of America.            Many groups at the capitol. Met with Senator Steve Green. Sat for Senate Education Committee meeting. We had a student Expo on March 8-9. Partner with Neilson - Spearhead center for education and outdoor activities. We will do some community service and teachers can get students out of the building.            Feb 27 American Indian Education gathering. Conferences March 8-9. Erin from Osprey Wilds came on a site visit. Discussed plans for moving forward with leadership and staff retention. Will send a report. Discussed enrollment cap expansion. Current enrollment cap is 123. Finance committee discussed stipends for staff. Loon (vape company) gave us a grant \$5000 to buy vape detectors.            Upcoming: community day, celebration of learning, e-week. Radio ad on 100% graduation planned for Wednesday. Friday going to Why Treaties Matter exhibit at Walker.</p>		
4:52 PM	Public comments.	NA		
	Discussion Items			
4:42 PM	Affiliated Building Company/ School expansion	<p>Way for charter schools to become their own landlord. MAACS knows how to make the ABC transition happens. Then we can also collect lease aid. Trek has an ABC.            Jess: Are there statutes that we need to follow? Guidelines, parameters, laws, etc. What timeline would we be looking at?</p>		

		Currently we have four years left on the lease, but the landlord has approved an expansion in that time. Next steps under discussion. We are in the city of Bemidji. Meeting with landlord on March 28 about footage and student numbers. Initial expansion includes more common area space to the high school.		
5:05 PM	Steps and Lanes	Jess: who were the people involved in the planning / feasibility? Kari explains chart. Debate about what the steps and lanes mean, what are the criteria? Favorite schedule starts at \$40,000. Can we vote at the end? "No", John says, "The chart is incomplete." Discussion about what the steps and lanes mean and how many categories we have based on degree completion, etc.		
5:37 PM	Staff Stipends	ESSR money from COVID. Other schools have given money to staff to thank them for staying and working throughout the whole Covid episode and chaos/re-planning, etc. Plan to utilize specific funds from ESSR pot. Formula borrowed from another charter school. Points based divided by total pot of money \$43,000. All staff would get something, regardless because we are still working on Covid issues. Ryan has to re-write a grant with the MN Dept of Ed.		
5:49 PM	Enrollement Cap Expansion	Osprey does not say one way or another. Potential formulaic answer based on expansion of building/ABC. This is more of an planning stage, rather than something we need to establish ASAP.		
5:51 PM	Financial Committee	Steps and lands, stipends.		
5:52 PM	Scholarship Committee	Look to Calvary Lutheran as a model. Separate bank account from the church...for a school the dontations would be tax deductions. We can start independently and then decide if we want to sign the fund over to NWM Foundation. Should this be about graduation or just if they go to college? Who should we ask about donations? Where are our kids more likely to go after high school? Money must come from the outside, not the school. Gene is prepping the quilt donation for a raffle.	Scholarship committee meet soon.	Solicit ideas and suggestions.

6:15 PM	Election Committee	Jess sent out request for nominations. Two were returned. No papers for community member. One teacher and one parent. John can be written in on the ballot.		Ballots coming out soon.
6:16 PM	Director Eval	Jess is head, Alison, and Heather make up the director evaluation committee.		Meeting set up for March 16.
6:20 PM	Calendar changes	Ryan sent out a staff survey. 17/5 wanted to change the date so students come in on Tuesday, April 11. Kari motions to change calendar. Need to change board meeting to Apr 11, 2023 since we do not have school on the 10th. Chari seconds motion to change calendar.	All in favor.	
6:23 PM	Jess asks for motion to approve steps and lanes.	Gene seconds. All in favor of steps and lanes.	All in favor. No opposed.	
6:23 PM	Jess asks for motion to approve donation from The Loon.	Jess motions, Kari seconds.	All in favor.	
6:27 PM	Restorative Practices	Link in agenda.		
6: 27 PM	Jess asks for motion. Kari motions,	Gene seconds. All in favor of going home.		

**NEXT MEETING(S):** April 11, 2023 at 4:30.