

# Voyagers Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes

November 21, 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	x	John	x
Ryan	x	Kari	x
Kathy	x	Gene	x
Heather	x	Jessi	x

Also: Rylan, Brayden, Gracie, Dexter

**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:

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

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	Focus	Agenda Item/Topic	Discussion	Decision/Result	Action/Steps
4:30 PM		Call to Order by Jessi		Established Quorum	
		Overview of Agenda	remove financial audit. Move to December.	approved. seconded.	
		Consent agenda,	Kari motion to approve with changes, Jessica second	No discussion. All agree	
		Add 2 discussion items, by Jessi	Motion by Gene, second by Kari	All agree	
		Any conflict of interest?			
		10/10 meeting minutes and 10/31	Gene motion, Jessica approve.		

			Heather motion to approve consent agenda again. Jessica second.		
4: 35 PM		Financials	no commentary	All approve.	
4:35 PM		Director's Report	<p>Enrollment 110, but looking for 112. Friends of the Boundary Waters came as part of our mission. This summer 10ish students and 4 staff can go to the Boundary Waters for free paid by the BWCA.</p> <p>Celebration of Learning night 10/15. First E-week was successful. 2 seniors have been accepted to post-secondary. Started staff PLC. HS-focus on PBL. MS-focus on cross-curricular projects. Great turnout at conferences. Clothing drive happened during conferences. New VES Friday focus to staff weekly communication. NA Heritage Month-Annie Humphrey Fry-bread and concerts. Upcoming: Unified schools indigenous games. Can send up to 15 HS students. 7th grade cities trip Dec 13-14.</p> <p>Kari explained the plan. Vans with 15 students and 3 staff. Alison will lead ice fishing class Hexes 3-5. Need donations of supplies. Community day upcoming making gift baskets for nursing homes. Almost end of Hex 2. Green Jobs conference in November.</p> <p>John: Eagles says Rotary, Lions clubs will donate if we ask them.</p> <p>John: How many seniors are on track to graduate? We need to be more proactive and tough on the kids. Should be doing better....</p> <p>Jessica: We can't know for sure yet as there are a lot of 'what ifs'.</p> <p>Heather attempt to explain PBL process</p>		
5:00 PM		Public comments	Kathy says we were supposed to sign in formally in order to speak at a school board meeting. No one says they want to speak.		
5:02 PM		Jessi mentions student behaviors.	<p>How can we address the behaviors and destruction of school property? How can we help students and staff?</p> <p>John: Has the staff talked about this?</p>		

			<p>Kari: We don't stop talking about it. Kids are being bullied, etc. Jessi and Jessica provided insights. Should we bring in community members?</p> <p>John: Red Lake once had parents at school as consultants. It seemed to help behaviors, attendance, etc.</p> <p>Makayla: MS last Friday. 1:00ish. Escalation of bullying one specific student.</p> <p>All school meet included students who wanted to share their thoughts.</p> <p>Students bullied a 6th grader immediately after the meeting and one was kicked off the bus and suspended.</p> <p>John asked about re-entry. We need to look at a plan.</p> <p>John says we need to be like a family.</p> <p>Gene suggests bringing in someone who was bullied and get them to tell their stories.</p> <p>John says we should write down what works for us and share with other staff. Ask students what works for them.</p>		Anonymous survey of staff asking for strategies.
5:35 PM		Finance Committee	Kari-discussed steps and lanes, but not much completed.		
5:37 PM		Scholarship Committee	John talked to Miller-McDonald. Not a lot of help. Osprey also not helpful. Few charter schools have foundations, so asking Northwest MN Foundation to run the foundation to keep it stable.	John wants to bring in someone from NW MN foundation for December meeting.	

5:38 PM		Jessi brings up Board training	Ryan included Osprey's "Sounding Board" for us to read on our own.		Return with 2 key points from article for next meeting.
5:39 PM		Jessi asks for motion to adjourn.	Kari made motion. Jessica seconded.	All in favor. No opposed.	
<b>Before adjourning, review each agenda topic to ensure group understanding - close the loop.</b>					
<b>Future Topics / Parking Garage</b>					

**NEXT MEETING(S):** Dec.