



Voyageurs Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes December 11, 2023

4:35 PM Jess Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Members present: Heather, John, Jess, Chari, Gene, Kari.

Also in attendance: Ryan Haasch, Kathy Skinner, John Rosco

4:35 Jess motions to approve adding John's addition of a hotline to the agenda.

John seconds approval with change Agenda. All agree.

No of Conflict of Interest

4:37 PM Kari motion to approve minutes and financials. Jess seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

4:38 PM FY23 Audit Presentation. Jon Rosco from Miller McDonald. Includes report/financial statement audit. They make sure financials are following guidelines--big picture.

State auditor's compliance (pg 4) Nothing came to the attention of Miller McDonald. Auditor learns about internal controls, but does not audit those per se. Reports are very similar to last few years. Oversight of School Board important because we don't have enough staff for proper segregation of duties. Financial Statement preparation--no areas of concern. Material weakness--needed adjustments for Special Ed and Federal aid receivable. Need to reconcile those items. Not all federal aid was drawn down yet this year. There is a new category for building lease which is \$1,005,000. That affected the visuals, but will work out over the course of the year. We were over budget by about \$50,000. There was a decrease in state and federal aid. Covid funds gone now.

2022 no need for transfer of food service fund. This year food service fund is recorded differently. Kathy says we will be reimbursed federally for the next three years.

(John E asks about Title 1, 2, 4, Indian Ed funding columns on expenditures.)

We should see a swing upwards in federal aid for 2024.

(John E-What is pupil support services? Jon R, requests explanation from staff. Kathy says it is from pieces of Indian Ed, Counselor, Student Support, etc. John E asks where in the expenses student incentives would be recorded.)

Jon R--minimum fund balance should be about 25%. This year it changed from 54% to 42% within 6.5 month. This is still a healthy fund balance. We should keep in mind 5 and 10 year plans when looking at fund balance. John E-What is a concern for fund balance. Jon R--two months.



Kathy-Osprey Wild the authorizer likes for the numbers to be lower than at present.

John E-Can you have too high of a fund balance

Jon R-It depends on the source of funds and reasons for saving. Always consider the 5/10 year plan.

5:01 PM Jon R presentation ends.

5:02 PM Director's Report

115 students with waiting lists.

John R: What is the breakdown by sex? How about families?

Kari: We have a lot of families and relatives.

Ryan: We had attendance and academic awards. Students applied to become student ambassadors. End of block 2 is this week. We had to shift last Wednesday to at-home learning because of a threat to ISD 31. We have an e-sports team. Rocket League and Super Smash Bros are unbeaten. Brett has been taking phy-ed students to BSU Rec Center. Kelly took students to Technical Career day in Hibbing. Formal Teacher observations are happening at the moment.

Upcoming events: Student Ambassador training in Cloquet tomorrow. Hopefully this will give us students trained to talk to outside organizations, help new students, etc.

Cedar Ceremony Wednesday of this week.

American Indian Family Appreciation night Thursday.

Next week School Spirit dress up.

Jess-How did 'dress up like students' day go? Kari and Ryan--GREAT!

Next E-week is coming up in January.

No public comments.

5:17PM Information/Discussion Items

Financial Audit completed. No other concerns.

4.3.2 - Group Health Insurance-revised. Dental rates changing. Jess asks if there are changes based on 100% to paying a lower percentage for newer employees.

Jess: Has there ever been a staff benefits committee.

Kari: There was a discussion this summer about vacation time use and accumulation.

5.6.1 - 504 Do we have students with a 504 plan? At present we have no students with physical disabilities. Jess-we need to review to make sure we are prepared if this does occur.

Kari: Do we need to have two readings of the documents? Ryan: Yes.

5.9.3 - Lunch Charge: The policy is in effect due to federal school lunch reimbursement program. Standard procedure. Reduced meal cost \$0.00. Staff do not have lunch often. Gene and Chari say their students do not appreciate the school lunch.



7.3.1 - Electronic Transfer Policy. Will need a second reading in January. Outlines how bills and other payments are made electronically. No questions or concerns at present.

7.3.4 - Fund Balance policy discussed with Jon Rosco of Miller McDonald. Kathy says there have been no changes. Looks ok, enrollment also good. Will be read 2nd time for action in January.

No more policy review at present.

5:33 PM John talks about Red Lake News and Red Lake Buffalo Ranch. Photos include Shaylynn, our MAAP Stars officer.

Update on hotline: Being considered by Red Lake Tribal Council. Some funding secured by Cass Lake and Red Lake schools as well as RL Boys and Girls Club. Waiting for more responses. Now we need volunteers that will be trained. Hoping to be in operation by the first of 2024. 5-10 PM hotline hours to encourage students not to drop out. Volunteers can work from home.

5:38PM Kari speaks for the Financial Committee. We need to have more eyes on paperwork. Shar and Kari will do some of that work. We have 115 students and are budgeted for 108.

Should we add one more 6th and one more 8th grader. Adding high school students a possibility.

We need to spend ESSR funds by the end of this year. Probably lunch room tables, maybe desks.

John: We need to be conscious of other charter/alternative schools so we don't lose students. We should include as many students as possible...If there's a will there's a way.

Kathy/Kari/Jess: We don't have room. There are laws about how much square footage we need per student.

Hopefully in the near future charter schools will be able to own buildings without creating an ABC. The land lord is open to adding on to the current school.

5:46 PM Scholarship Committee-Present Notes

Jess-We can take cash to Riverwood Bank and create gift cards for last year's graduates. Jon R from Miller McDonald needs to do more research. We will also need to forecast this year's potential graduates.

5:48 PM Nothing new for Director Evaluation Committee: Rubric and Eval Tool -Chair Summary



Action Items

5:48PM Vote to Approve Financial Audit

John motion to approve financial audit. Jess seconds. All in favor.

5:49PM Election Committee chair will be Kari. Jess and Shari will seek re-election.

Heather motions to approve Kari as chair. Jess seconds. Kathy will help. Date for election is April 18, 2024. This coincides with the Celebration of Learning. Less than 90 days prior to the election solicit candidates. Then send out ballots...there is a process in the bylaws. Must start the process in January to ensure compliance. Paper copies will go in the mail. All in favor. Motion carries.

5:54 PM Board Training through [Osprey Wilds Sounding Board - Financial Oversight](#)

Jon Rosco suggests that the board be more involved in financial oversight.

5:56 Kari motions to **Adjourn the meeting. Gene seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Next Board Meeting
January 8, 2024 @ 4:30 PM**