



Voyageurs Expeditionary School Board Meeting Agenda

February 12, 2024

4:30 pm

4:34 PM Jess Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Attendees: Jess, John, Ryan, Kari, Kathy, Gene, and Elaine H.

4:35 PM Approval of Meeting Agenda with the addition of highway revamp. John motions. Kari seconds. All in favor.

No Conflict of Interest

4:36 Kari motions to approve Consent Agenda. Jess seconds. All in favor.

- ◆ Minutes 1-8-24 Board Meeting
- ◆ 1-31-24 Financials

John asks what percent the CDs are earning on \$300,000 at Riverwood. Kathy says the newest is 5%.

4:38 PM Director's Report

Enrollment at 110. ELP update. January E-week included college tours, Treat Yo'Self fundraiser, ribbon skirts, ice fishing, school of rock learning guitar, etc. DND, Winter survival. We started a new grading block today. 13 staff attended the MAAP conference in Mankato last week. Theme was "Progress, not perfection." We are considering revamping the school cell phone policy. VES team looking at starting a no phones policy this school year in the high school. John asks about Dean of Students. Ryan says he's been super helpful. All staff have been observed.

John: Do staff and students know what to do in the event of a school shooting?

Ryan: As much as we can in such an event.

No public comments.

Information/Discussion Items

4:45 PM Grant overview Elaine [Hardwick](#).

Grant seeking is based on family, student, staff survey.

MHC Legacy Grant, Creator's Game (Lacrosse), Community Schools Grant-full service school, Prairie Care Mental Health-pairs HS/MS students in conjunction with Peacemakers. Understand Native MN program-language, Native Language Revitalization, Native American Language, Youth Entrepreneurship, Safe Routes to School (bike maintenance and repairs), After-School community learning. To successfully implement a lot of these at once we would need more staff. Jess says there are other community resources that will work there, too.



John asks about Elaine's status as a VES employee. When was she hired? Elaine started late January 2024 as a grant writer and implement them. John asked if new hires need to be cleared with the board. Kathy says personnel is Ryan's duty.

5:16 PM John update for Dropout Prevention Hotline. Starts March 1 from 5-10 PM. We need volunteers and have cooperation from the Boys and Girls Club of Red Lake. Update on Project Graduate--in the process of writing a curriculum. It would be great if VES could graduate 100% this year.

5:18 PM Schoolcraft Outreach Collaborative Director Evaluation. Schoolcraft reached out to Jess asking us to share our evaluation materials because they are revamping their process. Jess would like to include them in the process as we make adjustments to ours.

5:21 PM Highway revamp: Josh from Moore Engineering contacted Jess asking about VES agreeing to a resolution that made pedestrians a part of planning for highway reconstruction. Is this the same thing as Safe Routes to School? Jess will follow up.

5:30 PM Budget Review. Kathy says that the budget is almost \$17,000 backwards, but this will change after MDE approves ESSR funds. Currently, ESSR revenue reflects what we spent, but not what we have. We have been pre-approved for the expenditures. The budget was built conservatively at 108 students. Jess: Can the board do anything to facilitate or help? Kathy: No, ESSR money is complicated because the money is ours, but we don't have it. The ESSR situation looks similar in other schools. John: Will the budget be close to balanced? Kathy says yes.

5:37 PM Jess asked Addie at Osprey about options for board attendance. Addie said that Board Subcommittees have more flexibility in scheduling. Might need to look at optional meetings (if we need 10, might we make adjustments if there are 12 scheduled). Addie said statute is in the policy, but some schools have additional options. She will provide Jess with more information.

5:42 PM Reading of 5.1.1 Admissions Policy with Lottery. This year there were a few minor language adjustments, but no real change.

5:45 PM 7.3.3 Fundraising Policy review. Fundraising must be previously approved and conducted responsibly.

Board Committees

5:47 PM Financial Committee changes. Lead teacher salaries, sub payments, Title 1 money. Concern over adding new students and the change in dynamics.

5:48 PM Scholarship Committee. Jess was unavailable, so not much change at present. Jess is in contact with people from the NWMN Foundation. Use the term Honorarium rather than Scholarship.



5:50 Director Evaluation Committee: Update and Timeline OW Feedback. Jess received clarification from Addie at Osprey. No feedback yet. Considering talking to Schoolcraft about their process. Meeting anticipated by the end of February.

Action Items

5:52 PM John motions Approve Budget Revision. Gene seconds. John asks if we have ever been short at this time of year. Kathy says no. If anything trips will be reduced. All in favor.

5:55 PM 5.1.1 Admissions Policy with Lottery. Jess motions to approve. John seconds. All in favor.

5:55 PM Gene motions to approve 7.3.3 Fundraising Policy. Kari seconds. All in favor.

Board Training: list of links from Addie at Osprey.

[New Board Member Training Recordings & Quizzes](#)

Kathy recommends financial and roles/responsibilities.

5:59 PM Kari motions to adjourn the meeting. Jess seconds. All in favor.

**Next Board Meeting
March 11, 2024 @ 4:30 PM**