

Voyagers Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes

June 12, 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

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 |
| <i>B</i> | Ryan x | Kari x |
| | Kathy x | Gene absent |
| <i>O</i> | Heather x | Chari absent |

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B **Visitors:**

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MEETING MINUTES

| Time | Agenda Item/Topic | Discussion | Decision/Result | Action/Steps |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| 4:32 PM | | Jess called meeting to order | | |
| 4:33 PM | Meeting Agenda | Kari motion to approve Meeting Agenda. No discussion. John seconds. | All approve. | |
| | Conflict of interest | None | | |
| 4:34 PM | Consent Agenda | Jess motion to approve. John seconded. No questions or changes. Packets are bigger than we are used to because the auditor asked for more backup info, which is a standard report. | All approve. | |
| 4:35 PM | Director's Report | Ryan: School year is over! We had a busy May. Trip to Montana, lodge was built in the back. Another trip went to the cities. Seniors went to North Dakota to learn about energy. We attended food pack and did so well that the session was cut short. This shipment was sent to Ukraine. Graduation at BSU with a few technical difficulties. Both HS and 8th grade graduation were well attended by families. This week we have educators from around the state attending Circle/Restorative Practice. There are three concurrent sessions at the moment with around 40 attendees total. Planning a staff retreat in August and summer school in July. We still need SpEd teachers, paras, and a HS English teacher, plus Dean of Students and Office Manager. | | |
| | Public comments. | NA | | |
| 4:45 PM | Discussion Items | Second reading of Smudging policy. There is a typo where the district number needs to be edited. Osprey Wilds contract amendment: change to wording so that it says we renew every 5 years, starting in 2024. Kathy, Ryan, Heather, Kari...list is not finalized yet. Include Kelly for testing information and Becky as a consultant. | Start monthly check-ins to keep us up to date. First stage due Thursday, September 15. | |
| 5:21 PM | Finance Committee | Vans are currently in Little Falls, MN. Discussed paraprofessional salary scale. VES is slightly higher than other charters. Paras no | | |

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| | | longer required to come in on all staff days. Looking into new furniture for classrooms and the lunch room. John suggests giving old furniture to Hope House or Adult Day services. Jess says that there is a decommissioning process for non-profits that we should check on. | John will ask if they want lunch tables/desks | |
| 4:59 PM | Director Eval Committee | Jess, Kathy, Becky, Alison, Heather met after staff survey to summarize the data/comments. | | |
| 5:00 PM | Scholarship Committee | Five tickets left for sales. Jess and Ryan will pick the winner of the quilt and figure out which recent graduate gets the scholarship. | | |
| 5:02 PM | Action items | Kari motions to approve. Jess seconds. Discuss the new school calendar. New calendar has more classroom days. Spread things out so that May is not as busy. The school day is lengthening based on when Bemidji bussing drops students off. We need 1050 hours of student time. The calendar has been revised to include Friday staff days or flex days where teachers can work from home in an attempt to address work/life balance. John proposes putting School Board meetings on the school calendar. Ryans says the back will contain a list of all known events. Jess asked for approval. | All approve. | |
| 5:09 PM | | Kari motion to approve contract amentment with Osprey. John seconds. | All approve. | |
| 5:10 PM | | Approve paraprofessional salary scale. Jess motions to approve. Kari seconds. Hourly wage is \$18.50. | All approve. | |
| 5:12 PM | | Kari motions for holding July board meeting on the 10th. John approves. | All approve. | Kathy says we need to hold a special meeting to approve the budget for next year. Prospective meeting before Becky's |

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| | | | | retirement party at 6/20 at 4:05. |
| 5:18 PM | | John motion to adjourn. John second motion. | All approve | |
| 5:20-6:20 PM | Closed meeting . | Reviewed director evaluation. Jess will present to Ryan with a new employment agreement. | | |
| | | John motions to adjourn. Kari seconds. | All approve. | |
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NEXT MEETING(S): July 10 at 4:30 pm