



## **Voyageurs Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes** March 11, 2024

4:30 PM Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Present: Jess, Chari, Gene, Ryan, Kari, Kathy, Heather

Absent: John

4:31 PM Jess motions to approve Meeting Agenda. Kari seconds. All in favor.

No Conflict of Interest

**4:31 PM Motion to approve Consent Agenda. Kari seconds. All in favor.**

Minutes 2-12-24 Board Meeting

2-29-24 Financials

4:33 PM Director's Report: 113 students (having just added 3). Kathy and Nicole brought students to the MAAP STARS Legislative day in St. Paul. We had awards for blocks 2 and 3. VES went tubing. E-Sports competed in Fargo.

Lottery held for next school year on Mar 1, 2024. This week there will be conferences and a bake sale fundraiser. MAP testing next week. We've been discussing a new cell phone policy for the high school.

**No Public Comments:**

**4:37 PM Information/Discussion Items**

5.4.1 Student Electronic Device Use Policy: Hoping to institute at the start of Block 5. We will hand out information to families during conferences. Ryan has been talking with Northern Lights School in Warba about their process and with the student support team about how to reinforce expectations. There are options for pouches, lock boxes, wall pockets, etc.

Road widening Project: The resolution we discussed at the last meeting is no longer an issue, but Addie from Osprey suggested a possible letter of support. The project would not begin for another year. Jess will share it with the school board in advance.

Language update for Board meeting attendance: We can adjust the by-laws to say that "if a board member misses three consecutive meetings" the board "MAY" take action to remove that board member instead of the board "will" take action. Chari suggests adding a Zoom/Virtual attendance option. The meeting must be hosted from the school. Links must be published to offer the general public the opportunity to participate. Jess suggests that this may be part of rewriting the bylaws. Kathy says the change in language will need to be run through an attorney. This is separate from individual policies passed by the board.



4:59 PM **Board Committees**

**Kari provides overview of** Financial Committee meetings. We will be paying off vans with ESSR money and getting some new furniture.

Bemidji Area schools may go on strike **Apr 8, 2024** due to lack of contract negotiations. Kari is concerned about possible implications for other area schools, such as VES who rely on Bemidji Schools to provide contracted transportation. What are the options for other area schools? Will we also need to look at wages at VES in order to retain staff? Jess says that the Bemidji School Board meetings are packed. We may need to consider how this situation may lead to change at VES.

Scholarship Committee-graduation hotline, 100% grad rate: No new information. Jess is working on getting no-fee debit cards for scholarship disbursement. Should we consider academic performances regarding who gets scholarships? Heather says we have 13 seniors who are currently in the building. There are 7 online. The outlook is improving over past years.

Election Committee: Chari will run again. Jess is also up for re-election to the board.

5:24 PM Director Evaluation Committee: Jess met with **Becky Reinarz**, who suggested she cross-reference the board goals and the evaluation rubric. Then Jess, Becky, Makayla, and Heather met to plan and set deadlines. We will be using the same rubric as last year. Mak/Heather will introduce the process to staff on April 5. Data will be collected after that via anonymous Google Forms. Report will be given in May/June.

**5:26 PM Action Items**

Kari motions to carry the 5.4.1 Student Electronic Device Use Policy. Gene seconds. All approve. Motion carries.

**Upcoming Board Training**

Financial training through Osprey Wilds. **Building Your School**

**Budget - A Board Perspective**

Kari just took a finance training. Gene and John may need to register.

5:28 PM Kari motions to **adjourn the meeting. Gene seconds. All approve. Motion carries.**

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