



Voyageurs Expeditionary School Board Minutes April 8, 2024

4:32PM Call to Order and Establish a Quorum by Kari. Jess Saucedo delayed.
Present: John, Chari, Ryan, Kari, Kathy, Heather

John makes a motion to approve Meeting Agenda. Heather seconds. All in favor.

4:33 PM Kari makes a motion to Consent Agenda. Heather seconds.

Minutes 3-11-24 Board Meeting

3-31-24 Financials. John asked about check register entries for Buena Vista (tubing), Lutheran Social Services (food service), and Choice Therapy. We are having difficulties getting alternate food service, even though LSS is not something our students appreciate. Jess will make contacts to see if she knows someone who can help find better food service.

All in favor. Motion carries.

4:40 PM Director's Report

We have 108 students. Right now our students have artwork on display at the Watermark Art Center. VES is the only school that had an animation display. Today was our first day of no phones at school--especially for the high school. There were a few students who were difficult. Staff are also locking away phones. We just finished MAP testing. Our scores look awesome! Students will be rewarded with bowling.

We have roughly 12 students set to graduate this year.

Heather brought students to the Leech Lake Career and Jobs fair a few weeks ago.

Ryan started a Vibe Squad to get more students involved at VES.

We had a staff day last Friday. There was a book study, Narcan training, EL Training, and Admin Staff had a 'needs' circle ofsite.

Upcoming:

MCA testing, Celebration of Learning on Apr 18, 2024 . We have fundraiser/bake sale set for May 4 and are happy to take contributions.

4:55 PM John shares recent Bemidji Area graduation rates. VES is at 43%. State records say that our scores are in the top 50%. Our student/teacher ratios are 9-1.

5:00 PM 5.4.8 Release Time for Religious Events & Accommodations. New policy for renewal. It is a standard release.

5:02 PM Board Committees

Financial Committee met last Thursday. It looks like the Bemidji Area School teachers are working out their contracts. Since we have more funds coming in, we may need additional staff to keep track of coding. So far Elaine has gained \$150,000 in



non-exclusionary discipline funds. In addition, she gained us almost \$45,000 IHS Environmental Sustainability, Shakopee Minneapolis Foundation, and MN Safe Routes to School. Brett the art teacher, gained a grant for animation training. There is a chance VES will consider retention bonuses. John would like to know if there are any plans for capital improvements before the start of next school year. Kathy says the landlord is waiting for the economy to improve. There is a slight chance that VES will consider renting something.

5:06 PM Scholarship Committee. Jess has been working on brochures and has gift cards for last year's graduates. How should we dispense the gift cards? The committee will need to make decisions about future honorariums.

John says the Stay in school hotline is active. Parents have called to talk about their student's high school careers. Word needs to get out and VES should advertise.

Election Committee: Kari says her advisory created an assembly line to stuff envelopes and send out the ballots. Results will be tallied after voting closes at 4:00 on April 18.

Director Evaluation Committee: We haven't met. We will need to gather staff and explain the evaluation process as well as hand out paper versions of the rubric so staff have a chance to plan out their answers. Makayla set up the Google Form, which will be sent out the electronic version on April 16. School Board members will also fill out the forms.

5:27 PM Action Items

Review 5.4.8 Release Time for Religious Events & Accommodations. Heather asked everyone to re-read the policy. It does not appear to be the correct one. Ryan says that the correct version is 5.4.7. There was one in place in 2016, then revised in late December of 2021. Wording needs to be adjusted. John suggests tabling for the next meeting.

5:35 PM Kari motion to adjourn meeting. Jess seconds. All in favor.

**Next Board Meeting
May 13, 2024 @ 4:30 PM**