



Voyageurs Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes June 27, 2024

4:32 PM Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

In attendance: Ryan, Kathy, Chari, Gene, John, Kari, Heather. With Austin Claseman and Elaine Hardwick. Gene changed his last name to Porter from Barrett.

Heather motions to approve of Meeting Agenda, Gene seconds. All in favor.

No Declaration of Conflict of Interest

4:34 PM Gene motions to approve Consent Agenda. Chari seconds with edit to Minutes from 5/22. The date was incorrect. Date fixed. All in favor.

4:36 PM Director's Report

End of the school year. Enrollments almost full for next year. We are looking at 112 students in the building and the other 12 online. Eleven students graduated in 2024 and several more will be finishing in the near future with credit recovery.

There was a restorative practices workshop at VES last week. These were based on training for restorative circle processes.

Seven students and two staff went on a trip to the Boundary Waters where they explored and got eaten by mosquitoes. Trip was a success.

The school now has a stackable washer and dryer in the maintenance room. Kathy successfully spent the VES ESSR funds. Vans, washing machine, classroom furniture, lunch tables, etc.

Staff retreat returned 6/26. Took place in Pillager. The Woods at Lake Placid. Much planning occurred for the next school year. Most staff attended, including the three new staff.

Paul Bunyan Communications emailed Ryan and offered to sponsor the VES e-sports team, Frostbite.

Upcoming: Three weeks of summer school in July.

Elaine Hardwick presented information about bike grants and summer programming. After School Community Learning grant: Forty families showed interest and one student registered. She is seeking advice on how to increase engagement. This is a three year project. The program started mid June and runs through the first weekend in August. The school year program begins in September. Students are expected to participate for 100 hours. A recent purchase was an ice cream truck.



VES was also awarded a grant for food insecurity, clothing, mental health, etc. called Full Service Community School Grant. \$400,000. The grant agency is holding an upcoming planning meeting soon.

Now waiting for Ojibwe language and School based mental health grants.

Elaine writes the grants and then someone has to submit reports and make sure the school follows requirements. Kathy and Elaine are the key people for this process.

Many thanks were offered to Elaine for her efforts.

No Public Comments

4:58 PM Information/Discussion Items

VES now has an updated EL Plan of Service Policy. It now matches state requirements. No board members questioned the updated policy, which was adapted from other schools.

Data Subject Rights and Access Policy for adoption, and striking of Policy 4.2.1 Public and Private Personnel Data for employee information. Reviewed the policy. No concerns were located.

Revised School Leader Evaluation Process: Osprey Wilds suggestions were added to the previous description. No concerns were raised.

WBWF Policy: Legislature changed the requirements so now there is a policy for the process and reporting. We discussed the change and are awaiting future guidance from the state.

Lead Testing and Remediation Plan: compliance means that we test for lead and have a plan to notify families in the event that lead is found in our drinking water. Only faucets used for drinking water need to be tested. Kathy Skinner created a plan and is currently awaiting test kits. The statute should be .335. Gene inquired about who would be responsible for failed tests. Depending on the location, either the city or school would need to fix the issues.

5:13 PM Board Committees

Financial Committee: budgeted for 116, but enrollment is closer to 124. We need to find funding for a new office position as Kathy and Shar have positions that are changing duties/job descriptions. We will need a new front desk person. Shar will be responsible for operations and helping Ryan, Kathy for finances. Shar gets notifications from Osprey Wilds about requirements and compliance deadlines. Operations will be a part-time position at 150 during the school year and 25 over the summer. Ryan suggested the change when Shar and RCE stated that Shar's position was not sustainable. Elaine's grants add additional duties.

The committee has been discussing steps and lanes. VES starts at \$40,000 and Bemidji schools start at \$47,000. VES benefits are slightly better. There was discussion of a 5% adjustment, but no decisions were made. Kathy and Ryan decided to hold until the school board makes a



decision, but that will not happen until July or August. There are existing steps and lanes formulas for teaching staff and paras. Gene asked about the chances of making VES pay higher to keep staff. Ryan says we need to look into grants. Kathy suggested fundraising as one future change. John asked if there is a fundraising committee. We do not have one at the moment. Austin Claseman, who will be joining the board next month, has arranged for VES to be on the Non-Profit Organization list at the Sanford Center so that the school can earn money while helping the concession stands. Need two staff and eight student volunteers to run concessions. Income from the night would be at least \$600.

Field-work is the largest line item in the budget. We need to keep working on fundraising.

5:33 Scholarship Committee-graduation hotline, 100% grad rate. There will be further discussion in July.

5:34 PM Action Items

John motions to Approve Lead Testing and Remediation Plan. Gene seconds. All in favor.

Gene motions to Approve EL Plan of Service Policy. John seconds. All in favor.

Heather motions to Approve Data Subject Rights and Access Policy. Chari seconds. All in favor.

Policy 4.2.1 Public and Private Personnel Data Gene motions, Kari seconds. All in favor.

Heather motions to Approve Revised School Leader Evaluation Process - Policy 2.7. John seconds. All in favor.

Gene motions to Approve 24-25 Calendar. Kari seconds. Discussion of the color coding on the calendar draft. Conversation about best timing for graduation--on the last day of school or the following staff day. This year graduation was on the last day of school and it seemed to work well. Graduation was in the Beaux Arts Ballroom at BSU. It costs about \$500 for the school to rent with a discount. John would like us to include cake. All in favor.

John moves to Approve WBWF Policy. Chari seconds. No need for discussion. All in favor.

Heather motions to set July Board Meeting Date. Gene seconds: Thursday, July 11 at 4:30. All in favor.

Kari motions to Approve FY25 Preliminary Budget. Gene seconds. There are some items from the 2023-2024 totals that are inaccurate due to continuously incoming bills. Heather inquired about the rough yearly increases for salaries. Ryan says it is set at about 2.5%. Heather asked which job titles were which. Kari asked if there were any major changes. Kathy says no. Even the copy machine rental dropped with Marco. Chari asked why the director of finance position



had a much larger increase than the director. Ryan addressed job responsibilities and Regional Centers for Excellence. All in favor.

Gene motions to approve OW Authorizer Contract effective July 1, 2024. Kari seconds. John asked about changes. Ryan says they are on Exhibit G and focus mostly on academic goals. The point totals and data collection were adjusted to fit VES. Heather asked about credit requirements listed in the contract as the state of Minnesota changed graduation requirements. All in favor. Motion passes.

6: 20 PM Chari motions to end open session. Gene seconds. All in favor.

6:21 PM Kari motions to begin closed meeting. John seconds.

Director Review

Gene motions that Ryan's wage increase will match the staff increase. John seconds.

All in favor. Motion passed.

6:56 PM Kari motions to re-open meeting. Chari seconded. All in favor.

6:57 PM Kari motions to adjourn. Chari seconded. All in favor.

Next Board Meeting

Jul 11, 2024 at 4:30 PM