



Voyageurs Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2024

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.

Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

In attendance: Jess Saucedo, Gene Porter, Austin Claseman, Kari Olson, Chari LaDuke, Kathy Skinner, Ryan Haasch, with staff Elaine Hardwick, Shar Paquette

Absent: John Eggers

Approval of Meeting Agenda - Jess moved to approve the agenda with one addition of a report from Elaine Hardwick; seconded by Kari; MCU

Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none verified

- A. **Consent Agenda:** Consent agenda items are considered routine in nature and will be voted upon with a single motion; however, any board member may request that items on the Consent Agenda be removed from it for independent consideration. Any items so identified will be moved to the Action Item portion of the agenda.

- Minutes July 11, 2024 Board Meeting - with updated motion details on electronic transfer per Chari's email (had Gene doing both motion and second)
- July 31, 2024 Financials

Jess moved to approve the consent agenda with the changes in the minutes; Kari seconded; MCU



How Well Are Students Doing?

B. Reports

- Director's Report - see document
 - Elaine and Brad purchased lots of bikes!
 - Wells Technology - Elaine will be meeting with people from NTC about possible mentors
 - MS planning update
 - Collaborative Curriculum Support team (Monica & Kayla)
 - Online Programming
 - New Staff Orientation
 - All Staff Orientation
 - New hires - Tonie Voigt; Alex Bauge & Val
 - Sanford Center Fundraising - Austin set this opportunity up

Is Everything Occurring Appropriately?

C. Public Comments: Any person wishing to speak directly to the Board, once recognized by the board chair, may do so for up to 5 minutes. The public input period will last no longer than 5 minutes.

D. Information/Discussion Items

- Elaine Hardwick grant updates - about \$3,000 coming in for Food Sovereignty, no award for the air conditioning upgrade, will apply for a grant to try to get a full commercial kitchen, got the full service community grant, Kiln installed next week, 3 new events after school - Beginning Ojibwe, Star Quilting, Bass Nation Fishing - will be having 2 teams and doing some trapping, registration will be available orientation night, Youth entrepreneurship series - hired Braydin to help, and will offer some indoor student maintenance opportunities - \$15/hr. through the grant, Ice Cream and Food Stand - incorporating her own business in to mentor for the summer programs - and is giving 10% to the school - all other costs were absorbed by Elaine and her business - Elaine indicated disappointment in the shadow of what seemed like a negative tone about her integrity surrounding her business involvement in the student summer programming. Because of the questioning, Elaine will look a bit harder at continuing the process the same way moving forward. Otherwise, grants are going well - still looking for opportunities. Kari responded to Elaine's disappointment, assuring her that the question posed had no negative intent at all. Jess also gave some clarity about the questioning and it not being a negative response. Jess assured that Elaine is fully appreciated all around for her great additions to our programs



- Cell phone policy review and approve - some minor verbiage tweaks
- Salary Schedule & PTO Changes - if board approves, all salaries will adjust to these schedules - will wind up dipping into the fund balance this first year and will hopefully be fully sustainable if enrollment stays steady at the higher end - the online program helps with budgeting for this; PTO buy out for days over 5 for staff prior to the start of the school year;
- Student Handbook - Shar walked through the changes
- Staff Handbook - Shar went through changes
- Review 23-24 Board Action Calendar - tweak to make 2024-25 Board Action Calendar
- Director presents MCA results (per 23-24 Action Calendar - tabled to Sept as results are embargoed until end of August)
- Food Service Agreement & Lunch Charge Policy - Table for 7 FS - meal prices up to \$5.38 - \$20000 currently in budget won't be enough to subsidize this program - but thank goodness we have a provider!
- Review Pledge of Allegiance Policy - need to annually waive/adopt this policy
- Update Board Training Schedule (per 23-24 Action Calendar)
- Establish plan and time for Aug. 15 Board Retreat - need to move to another date - Sept. 26 - 4 PM - 6 PM
- Grading and Graduation Policy - tweaked verbiage

E. Board Committees

- Finance Committee - reviewed minutes - Kari will be Austin's mentor for the year as treasurer
- Scholarship Committee - still needs a viable place to transfer money electronically

F. Action Items

- Cell phone policy review and approve - Jess moved to approve as presented; Austin seconded. MCU
- Student Handbook - Gene moved to approved as presented; Jess seconded. MCU
- Staff Handbook - Kari moved to approve; Austin seconded. MCU
- Approve 24-25 Board Action Calendar - Jess moved to approve; Gene seconded. MCU
- Approve to Waive Pledge of Allegiance Policy - Chari moved; Jess seconded; MCU
- Approve Teacher and Para Salary Schedule/PTO policy - Gene moved to approve as presented; Jess seconded; MCU
- Food Service Agreement & Lunch Charge Policy - Kari moved; Gene seconded; MCU



Hands-on learning, service to others, and environment stewardship

- Grading and Graduation Policy approve - Jess moved; Austin seconded; MCU

Board Assessment and Development

G. Board Training

- MACS - [Board and Administrator Training Requirements](#)

I. Adjourn the meeting

Kari moved to adjourn at 6:41 PM; Gene seconded. MCU

**Next Board Meeting
September 12, 2024 4:30 PM**