



Voyageurs Expeditionary School Board Meeting Minutes

Sept. 12, 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 ~ 4:40 Jess called the meeting to order with 4 members present, quorum established

Present: Jess Saucedo, Kari Olson, Chari Laduke-Clark, Austin Claseman,

Staff Present: Ryan Haasch, Shar Paquette

Absent: Gene Porter, John Eggers

Approval of Meeting Agenda ~ Chari moved to add a grant update to the agenda; Jess seconded, MCU

Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none raised

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 Aug. 7, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes (Chari asked that the title show that it's minutes instead of agenda)
- August 31, 2024 Financials ~ Chari asked about the sponsor expense of over 7000 ~ Ryan confirmed that was for our authorizer payment

Jess moved to approve the consent agenda with requested change; Kari seconded; MCU

How Well Are Students Doing?

B. Reports



- Grant report - Elaine Hardwick - 20-25 kids involved in after school clubs, so lots of moving parts; next week Art Club and Ojibwe stuff 3 times next week; Red Lake boxing; Bike Club; received an Ojibwe language grant from MDE for 2 years! Yay! Will search for FT Ojibwe language teacher and maybe some after school options as well. E-Sports starting (Austin runs it); Carnival is scheduled Sept. 27, run by the VES Vibe Squad 5-8 PM - Ryan on the dunk tank;
- Director's Report
 - hot lunch update - numbers have been up some; we actually contracted with Schoolcraft where Amber Lynne works.
 - enrollment update - full!
 - First 2 weeks - busy!
 - Discussed orientation days - maybe don't need the full all-student orientation day...plug into the schedule a little differently.
 - New classes
 - Trips next week - MS to Deep Portage Monday and Tuesday; Juniors to Osprey Wilds Wednesday-Friday
 - MCA test scores review - Kari and Austin shared that MAP scores are much higher than the MCAs show, and a better measure of personal growth.
 - Chari asked about whether we have tutors available. We could maybe incorporate that into after school, with transportation available, since we have a van going to RL many days each week anyway.
 - Feels like a strong sense of community earlier in the year this year. Feels good.

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

- Student Enrollment Update - shared in the Director's Report; Jess asked what the max. number of online students was - Ryan thought 25, but not sure how that fits in the total number of students VES is authorized for.
- Review/Approve the Director Evaluation template and goals (per board action calendar)
- Director shares MCA results - shared in the Director's Report
- Board retreat Sept. 26 - 4 PM: discuss group needs for training/information: flesh out the director annual improvement plan;



changing agenda style; flesh out board goals in relation to the Director Annual Improvement Plan; venue TBA

- Staff Handbook with PTO tweaks and PTO Policy - Ryan covered the details. Staff will receive a link to the handbook after approved.
- FY25 Environmental Literacy Plan
- MOU from Miller McDonald for FY24

E. Board Committees

- Finance Committee - discussed the PTO bank and the new PTO policy
- Scholarship Committee - no report

F. Action Items

- Review/Approve the Director Evaluation template and goals (per board action calendar) - consensus was no action needed today
- Approve PTO Policy - Jess moved, Austin seconded; MCU
- Approve 2024-25 Staff Handbook - Austin moved; Chari seconded; MCU

Board Assessment and Development

G. Board Training

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

I. Adjourn the meeting - Kari moved to approve to adjourn at 6:04; Jess seconded. MCU

Next Board Meeting
October 10, 2024 ~ 4:30 PM