

**MINUTES**  
**VSWEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, April 7, 2021**  
**VIA [Zoom](#)**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gregory Schneider (GS) – President

John Tanner (JT)

April Sauer (AS) – Secretary

Danielle Martinez (DM)

Dan Franks (DF) – Treasurer

**MEMBERS ABSENT: None**

The President, Treasurer, and Secretary were present, and a quorum was reached.

**GUESTS**

Invitees of the Board:

Frank Mirizio (FM)

Members of the public present via Zoom/Registration through Google Forms:

- Nicholas Casura
- Andrew Tamala
- Michelle Kratzer
- Barb Cunningham
- Megan
- Susan Kerr

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- Colleen Pope
- Becky King
- Laura Heaney
- Deb
- Larry Grossenbacher
- Nellie Grossenbacher
- Harper Rose
- Jill Thomas
- Kim Baker
- Adelina Carrera
- Andrew Tamala
- Kerstin Kubina
- Heather Sullivan
- JJ
- JF
- Helena Moriarty

### **OPENING VERSE / INTRODUCTIONS**

Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm. GS welcomed the public to the meeting, read the opening verse, and reviewed meeting procedures.

The Board members introduced themselves along with FM.

GS Provided an overview of the agenda.

### **BUDGET AND FINANCE**

#### **2020-2021 Revised Budget**

GS We received a revised budget for the 2020-2021 school year. This was needed due to the fluctuations in enrollment.

FM Worked with GS and Monique Garza to get us back in the black. Went from \$17000 in black to \$23000 in the black. That's a projection through June, taking into account the equalization monies going up due to better attendance and enrollment. We'd love a similar equalization payment next month.

DM I'm not familiar with MOE. What's that abbreviation?

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FM MOE is the account for our special education students—this is money that gets tracked to make sure those monies go to special education. We had to move some things around to be in compliance.

DM I'm concerned about bank late fees. I'll reach out to Monique to ask about that. Priscilla was breaking that down for me in a previous report. I have questions regarding the grand total less depreciation, but it looks like maybe it was deducted twice.

FM Asked DM to email that to him so he can speak with Monique.

GS Depreciation is the way of accounting for the loss and value of things that are deteriorating over time. Normally in a for-profit corporation it would be a deduction. In the nonprofit context I'm not sure I understand that.

AS I'm fairly certain this was broken down in our initial documents when the budget was presented to us. I bet we have the information of those items.

FM Curious why our school's value is going down when buildings elsewhere this year are going up in value.

More discussion regarding the revised budget.

GS We don't have all the answers we need, so let's table this since Monique doesn't need this signed until May 15<sup>th</sup> and we have three more meetings before that.

### Enrollment Update

GS How are things looking currently?

FM 262 today, which is up 25 from December. This doesn't include kinder or private. It's 287 with those. Next year we have the opportunity for 32 more enrollment—those are still coming in. With those we'd be at about 307-308. Those are good numbers, but I'd like more in the high school.

AS You mentioned we got a report from Crystal, but I haven't seen anything. If she does have something for us, I'd love to see it.

FM I'll check on that.

DM Thank you to FM and team for the info night for high school. Asked about other events in the works.

FM Planning to have 8<sup>th</sup> grade included in a meeting to learn more about the high school.

DM I'd love to see 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> invited as well.

FM I'll let them know.

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## Fundraising

GS DM, would you like to walk us through these options?

DM Would still like to host a virtual even this year. It would be good exposure for our school for those who couldn't make it in person or families/community elsewhere. The first proposal with Melissa, I think we need more time to work through her proposal. With Mary's, she has a flat fee—I'd like her to do something with recorded content. I have permission to record the May Pole event, and we could reach families that way.

AS Agrees that Collaborative Event Management is the best option. It was specific and gave the information we needed to know our options.

DM Began to make a motion.

GS Let's hold off on that and discuss a bit more. I like this company as well, but I'm concerned that it's already April 7<sup>th</sup> and this is for May 1<sup>st</sup>. I'm a little concerned that there wasn't a target fundraiser. Melissa had a target of 130k over 6 months, and that was pretty appealing. I don't think these are mutually exclusive options. Maybe we wait a few months and hire Melissa for the start of the school year and do this other one now.

DM That's exactly what I want.

DF That makes sense to me—that they're not mutually exclusive.

JT I appreciate Marylynn. I know that we need money for the school and to build the community, but I am going to advocate for funds for the education of the children. I don't feel comfortable setting money aside that should be going to school needs . . .

GS JT is having internet issues here.

DM Sometimes we have to give a little to get a lot back in return.

GS I tend to agree with you, DM. I think it will pay for itself. We'll need to have multiple events a year to do some systematic fundraising. We got a windfall with the ESSER funds and PPP funds, but those are one time things.

AS The amount that Mary proposed as her fee was the smallest as well among the proposals. It was less than \$1000. And I assume we'll make more than that, so it does pay for itself.

DM moved to hire Marylynn for a May1st virtual fundraiser. GS second. The following discussion took place:

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JT I just had a question, so we hire her once for this May 1<sup>st</sup> event to see what she can do and go from there?

DM Yes, correct.

GS Reviewed the motion to get JT's vote.

Vote unanimous in favor: DF, DM, GS, AS, JT. **Motion passes.**

GS DM, you want to move forward with this and loop in FM?

DM Yes, I'll do that.

### Air Filtration Systems

GS A teacher reached out regarding a government program to get filtration systems for the school free of charge. It sounds like there's a backlog. Anything else to add FM?

FM No, just a thank you to Tammy Lopez, who told us about it. Her husband works for a company that does this. I filled out the form, and now I'm waiting to hear back. We're in the queue. It's a reputable system. They'll send me choices. It's a cart that sits in the corner. It looks like a minifridge. I don't know the specs.

GS We'll wait to hear more. Free air filters--can't go wrong there. Anything else regarding budget, cash flow?

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Update

GS We received your report. Anything to add?

FM Testing is going forward. It was a good week. Mr. Grossenbacher, who helped us put together a virtual tour, he helped us get the computers ready for testing. He's been there all week this week in case there's a glitch. I can't thank him enough. He's been a great peace of mind for us. We are very appreciative to Mr. Grossenbacher.

Gs Yes, thank you on behalf of the Board.

FM We did see that remote families brought their kids in. Some tested and then left, some stayed the whole day, and others chose not to test which is their right. That was a small percentage.

GS I know that's anxiety inducing, and it's not fun for anybody, but thank you for coordinating this and the smoothing out of this.

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FM Our teachers have been great and working through all of this. We're so pleased that it's going nicely right now.

GS DF pointed out to me that some individuals are using the chat box. Board members are allowed to invite public to speak on matters on the agenda. I can see that some hands were raised. We can invite them into this discussion, but for me this is about reporting what's going on. I'll leave that up to you.

DF If we can invite people in, then I'd like to invite Ms. Deb to speak.

GS Okay, inviting Ms. Deb in to speak. Are you still with us? Okay, maybe that was accidental. Anything else you want to bring to our attention, FM?

FM We're at about 50 students on remote. We're seeing more come in, so that's a good thing.

## **COVID-19**

### School Operations

GS Anything you think we need to discuss?

FM We're continuing with the day porter and cleaning at night. Kids are wearing their masks and washing their hands. They can take a mask break at recess and then put it back on. I'm not overly concerned. I believe we're following our protocols as best we can. We hand out masks as needed if someone forgets.

### Benchmarks

GS In Maricopa, we're still in substantial transmission, but the numbers are all moving in the right direction. I think we're well positioned to finish out the year in a hybrid model.

## **BOARD PROCEDURES**

### Approval of Minutes

GS moved to approve the 03/17/21 regular meeting minutes. JT second. No further discussion. Vote is unanimous in favor: GS, DF, JT, AS, DM. **Motion passes.**

### Board Application Timeline

GS I was pleased to see that we had five applications at the end of the day. Typically, we'd interview in April and elect people to the board in the meeting in May, but now we have more meetings than we used to. So we have 4/21, and in the interest of moving this along we could

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do interviews then although we typically discuss budget at the meeting, but I think we've been moving through our meetings fast. Then 5/5 we'd ask follow-up questions and elect people to the board.

DM Cinco de Mayo, huh?

FM The last one was St. Patty's Day.

DM I don't typically perform on St. Patty's Day, but I do on Cinco de Mayo.

GS We could split and interview on 4/21 and then elect at the last meeting in May.

DM I like the sooner than later.

GS If you prefer May 5<sup>th</sup>, that's fine.

AS My only thought was that you meet with the applicants so if you can fit that into your schedule, then that works.

GS Okay, so interview on 4/21 and elections on 5/5. I will reach out to our candidates. I'm pleased with the amount of applicants as well as the quality. These individuals have contributed to our community for a long time.

### Board Calendar

AS Our meetings are scheduled through June and then that's it. The rest are tentative dates, so we need to decide what we want to do moving forward—one meeting a month or two.

GS I prefer two since we get through a lot and quickly and because the agendas are light.

DF I think the community appreciates the shorter meetings as well. It's easier to digest. Following a four-hour meeting is rough.

GS Yes, that's a word for it. There are other words, but we can't say them here.

DF Is it difficult for FM to put out his report for each meeting?

FM Not at all.

GS What are your thoughts, JT?

JT I think until we're on the other side of Covid19, we need to continue with this schedule. I agree with twice a month.

GS Yeah, I think we're able to get more done too. AS, will you take a stab at a schedule for us?

AS You want a one-page document with all the dates?

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GS Yes.

AS Okay, I'll have that for our next meeting.

GS moved to adjourn. DF second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: JT, GS, AS, DF, DM. **Motion passes.**

JT read the closing verse.

**CLOSING VERSE**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Prepared by AS on 04.07.2021.