

MINUTES
VSWEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022
VIA [Zoom](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Franks (DF)—Treasurer
April Sauer (AS)—Secretary
John Tanner (JT)
Myriah Mhoon (MM)

Danielle Martinez (DM)
Nellie Grossenbacher (NG)
Ben Fong (BF)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gregory Schneider, Kerstin Kubina, and Scott Edwards

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

GUESTS

Invitees of the Board:
Frank Mirizio (FM)
Michelle Kratzer (MK)

Members of the public present via Zoom/Registration through Google Forms:
Barb Cunningham
Morgan Davis
Sami Rank
Sophia McCurley
Tammy Lopez
Laura Heaney
H
MD
Deb

OPENING VERSE / INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 6:38pm. DM welcomed the public to the meeting, read the opening verse, and reviewed the agenda.

The Board members introduced themselves along with FM and MK.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

05.04.22 Approved

FM He was able to get back into the office today. It's good to be back. Enrollment is steady at 283. In August we could have 312. There's a large tour coming with about 6 high schoolers attending. The bathroom is being scheduled in the next 7-10 days to break ground. Still waiting on permits for the woodshop. DEI training: we have two companies we're looking into to do this work and present to our staff. He's hoping to make a decision by next Friday. Presentations will happen during the fall teacher trainings and then trainings every 8ish weeks. Sarah, Dr. Darian, and he have been working to find the right group. We have some job openings for the fall, and applications are already coming in. The state budget is still not complete. Tuesday the Governor is supposed to announce the state budget, which will tell us what teacher increases and extras we can add to our school. He will be meeting with Monique regarding the budget. The field trip last week for 8th grade was awesome. They went to Catalina Island. We're getting ready for Medieval Games in May as well as Pentathlon and a high school trip.

NG Do we have a posted calendar on the website?

FM Yes, we have that on the website, and I sent it to the board in February, I think.

NG Are we extending our day?

FM No, we do not have plans for that at this point.

PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

MK We had some fundraisers recently. Tuft and Needle gives us a portion for mattresses purchased through a link. We got a check for \$1000. Chipotle went well, and we made \$216. Those will be used for upcoming funding requests. The forms for requests will be going out soon. We will be discussing those at our May 10th meeting, and then on May 17th we will vote on them. In order to vote, you have to attend the May 10th meeting. We will also be doing nominations for our leadership team on that day as well. Teacher appreciation is May 2-6; Sophie and Morgan have some awesome things planned for our teachers and staff. The Barnyard Brunch is not Parent Council related, but we want everyone to know about it. It's an animal care fundraiser. There will be raffle baskets at the brunch, and all proceeds will go to animal care. This morning we had a meeting to plan for next year to set our calendar.

DM Thank you, MK. Any questions for MK?

CONTINUING BUSINESS/OPEN ISSUES

Approval of Meeting Minutes

DM moved to approve the 04/06/22 Meeting Minutes. NG second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: DF, JT, NG, BF, DM, AS, MM. **Motion passes.**

NEW BUSINESS

AZ Charter Schools Association Schools and Charter Event

DM I don't think we've attended this event before, but I will be heading out to represent DMS. There will be tables out with information so people can come by and get to know schools. It's late notice for a table, but maybe we can work that out. If not, we can plan on that for next year.

05.04.22 Approved

MK Next year can we bring a horse?

DM I'll find out. FM, have you attended before?

FM I haven't attended any since I've been with DMS, but I've attended with Tempe Union and Coolidge.

DM What can you share?

FM It's not a recruitment. It's for charters to learn about other charters. You can meet state board members and maybe some legislators. Kathy Hoffman should be there. It's a positive fun day, but there aren't families shopping for schools. I'm glad you've chosen to go. I think you'll like it.

DM Are there any objections to attending? I think it'll be good to see what other schools are doing. That'll be tomorrow from 11-2. Lunch will be served.

Executive Director Evaluation

DM FM, I don't remember when you started with us. When was that?

FM December 28th last year, so it's been a year and a half.

DM Are you opposed to an evaluation, or do you have a preference on a survey style or self-form?

FM It's important that you take the time to evaluate your executive director. I'm all for that. I do that with teachers. The goal is to be better tomorrow than you were yesterday, so of course I'm open to constructive criticism.

AS Kerstin asked me to corral some materials, so I have gathered previous evaluations and some templates, and she has access to those. It's a good place to start.

FM This wouldn't be at a board meeting, would it?

DM No, I imagine it would be in an executive session.

MM What do the bylaws say about that?

DM Let me look.

AS I can't speak off the cuff regarding the bylaws, but ASBCS doesn't have anything specific for us to do; it's up to us.

DM Read from the bylaws. It's a bit vague.

AS The last time there was evaluation I wasn't on the board, but I attended those board meetings. I know there was a self-form and the community received a survey. I do remember that some of the anonymous comments were shared at the board meeting, but I'm sure the actual evaluation report was done one on one or in executive session.

05.04.22 Approved

MK I remember filling out a survey on vacation, so it was the very end of the year, or beginning of the summer.

DM Okay, let's table that closer to the June agenda. AS, I think you would be key in helping to create some tools since you led the advisory panel.

Training on DEI

MM Do we have funding for DEI? Have you reached out to the Piper Foundation for that?

FM I am planning on putting that in the budget. There's another grant that is open that we might be able to use. I'm not sure what the cost would be. I think it could be done for 6-8k.

MM Thank you.

NG Does Piper offer funding to go towards it?

MM Yes, the Piper Foundation are huge funders for schools and nonprofits. You have to get into their nook. They'll support good governance, DEI, and then they offer up consultants. It's a relationship that you have to get into.

FM They don't just fund it—they want to present?

MM No, they offer up lists of providers. Erin Goodman is the person you want to reach out to.

FM Got it: I wrote it all down.

DM What does getting in their nook look like?

MM They have their priorities of who they work with. They often help nonprofits and schools.

DM FM, please share more as that progresses.

Long Range Plan/Board Goals Development

DM AS, did the long-range plan make it into the drive?

AS Yes, I had access to those files and sent direct links to Kerstin and FM as was requested at the last board meeting.

FM I liked those documents. Kerstin and I will be meeting tomorrow to discuss a plan. We want to start with what happened previously and then prioritize. We need to have capital projects and retention of staff. I think that's where we need to start. I like that there's a framework to start with.

AS The long-range plan that was previously used was extensive as it was a 3-5 year plan. You can see that there are many goals that weren't reached. I would certainly like to truncate the plan to a few priorities and set goals we can accomplish.

FM I'd like to pick 3-4 really important things and go on from there and start again with new priorities.

05.04.22 Approved

DF I tend to agree. I like ambitious goals but only 3-4 and then break them down into achievable tasks. That will help to show and measure that you have succeeded over time.

DM I'm glad it will be a small group tomorrow. I'm looking forward to seeing that development.

Anthroposophical Café

DM There is a list of topics for the Anthroposophical Café, so anyone can browse and choose what they're interested. Is anyone interested in that list?

NG Can you email those to us?

DM Yes, absolutely.

Book Club Rotation

DM MK, have you decided to continue with book club or continue with Mountain Oak?

MK I don't think we've made a full decision yet. Some of the scheduling is hard, and we may have to see if they want us to join.

DM There was a small group last time. The next one is Monday, May 25th if anyone would like to attend. I'll send out the Anthroposophical Café information. They meet every Friday. It's 6:30pm AZ time. It's usually an hour or so.

NG I feel like that should go out to the community as well.

DM Yes, we didn't want to send out too much information since we have so much going on, but we will send something out.

PROPOSED MOTIONS

Motions were made within the agenda topics themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DM 05/01 is May Pole.

FM Actually it's 04/30, which is a Saturday. May Pole is from 8:30-11:30am. There will be games and activities for the kids and some munchies. We're taking care of all of that. No one is donating anything. We want to thank the parents for all their support.

NG There's May Pole at school though, right?

FM Yes, that's on Friday in the morning.

DM The next board meeting is 05/04 at 6:30pm. The Barnyard Brunch is 05/07. Raffle baskets, sponsoring an animal, also tickets for food.

NG On the site you can sign up to sponsor an animal. Each grade is putting together raffle baskets. We're encouraging families to sell those tickets to family, friends, and neighbors to help support animal care. It will be a full vegetarian meal. We will use eggs from our hen house.

05.04.22 Approved

DM Well, thank you I think that concludes tonight's meeting.

DM moved to conclude the 04/20/22 VSWEA board meeting. NG second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: DF, AS, JT, DM, NG, BF, MM. **Motion passes.**

CLOSING VERSE

BF read the closing verse.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Prepared by AS on 04.20.2022.