



**MINUTES**  
**VSWEA Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, June 07, 2023  
VIA [Zoom](#)

---

**Members Present:**

April Sauer (AS)—Secretary  
John Tanner (JT)  
Danielle Martinez (DM)

Myriah Mhoon (MM)  
Nellie Grossenbacher (NG)  
Ashley Parks (AP)

**Members Absent: Ben Fong, Kerstin Kubina, and Dan Franks**

The Secretary was 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:

Michelle Kratzer  
Deb

**Opening Verse/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 6:36pm. DM welcomed the public to the meeting and read the opening verse.

The Board members introduced themselves as well as FM.

**Executive Director Updates**

FM Today, we offered three positions, and they were all accepted. We have a new Special Ed Director. Her name is Dr. Jane Rupard. We found a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Ms. Paige Smith. She just graduated from NAU. She's joining us in our teacher training. Our third hire is a SPED teacher, Nicolette Crosman. I offered a math position. We're still looking for a Spanish teacher, but yesterday was a good day. Regarding enrollment, we had a large tour this week. Dr. Darian gave the tour. We had four high school kids in that tour. We only have a few openings in the grades. We'll be reaching out to some homeschool groups to see if anyone is interested in the high school. We're at 294, and we want to be over 300. The woodshop's electrical is done. We have AC, insulation, and ply walls left. We will be done at the end of June. Mr. Camacho is doing some work on campus, refinishing our picnic tables and some benches. He checks in on the woodshop while he's there. Hector is working on an EC project to use up some funds from the EC grant. He's also working on finishing up the parking lot landscape. That'll be done before school. The budget is looking good. We were supposed to talk about that tonight, but the state put out some new budget software. It's not available yet, but we will have that ready soon after.

Our new teacher training starts on Monday. The new 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and SPED teacher will be at the training. 11 of our teachers will be taking the training this summer, and 3 will graduate from the program. We are planning on the first week of August to do the town hall.

DM Can we consider doing town hall at a later time to consider working families? Maybe 6:30 or 7. Or a Zoom?

FM Let me talk with Dr. Darian and a few others, and I'll get back to the board.

DM Are we considering an open house so the children can meet their teachers?

FM EC kids will get to meet their teachers. In the older grades, they will meet their teachers and see their rooms on the first day.

DM Will you be able to avoid interviews during the day so you can attend training this year?

FM I am scheduling interviews early so I can get into the classes. I believe I can get that done outside of the training.

DM Thank you, FM.

NG Is it safe to say all of the other teachers have signed their contracts?

FM Yes, those contracts are all back in. And we will be amending those contracts to add 3%. That's on top of all the contract increases we just made.

NG Does Mr. Camacho need help moving all his equipment?

FM He might. We were thinking we'd check in with our high school to help out. I think it will be after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

NG It was a long road. It took 2 ½ years to get this shop built, and I'm really excited.

FM I agree. We just can't wait. Mr. Camacho checks in every day to report what's happening in the woodshop.

NG Do you need donations for food at the teacher training?

FM I'm providing coffee and treats. We are not providing lunches this year.

NG So you'd take a treat donation?

FM Yes.

MM I just want to say thank you to you and staff and teachers. We are taking our breaks while you all are working hard onsite, and I appreciate it.

### **Proposed Motions**

DM moved to approve the 05/17/23 regular meeting minutes. NG second. No further discussion. Votes in favor: AS, DM, JT, MM, NG, AP. **Motion passes.**

DM moved to approve 05/17/23 Executive Session meeting minutes. NG second. No further discussion. Votes in favor: AS, DM, JT, MM, NG, AP. **Motion passes.**

DM moved that the board accepts the resignation of Ben Fong sent via email on May 19, 2023. AS second. No further discussion. Votes in favor: AS, DM, JT, MM, NG, AP. **Motion passes.**

DM I'd like to thank Ben Fong for his service.

DM moved to approve the "children's internet protection act" for DMS. AS second. No further discussion. Votes in favor: AS, DM, JT, MM, NG, AP. **Motion passes.**

DM moved to approve the field trip policy for DMS. MM second. The following discussion took place:

JT I have a few questions. There's a paragraph regarding kids passing classes. What does that mean? What's the criteria? Do we need Dr. Darian's approval or is it up to the teacher?

FM We discussed this as the LDC. Regarding the decision, the teacher gives grades. There will have to be communication between the parent and teacher ahead of the field trip. We want to see effort and see students turning in work.

JT I know that parents will look for loopholes, so I want to clarify. I am so grateful that you authored this. I simply want to avoid the pitfalls. I don't want to have issues. There's a statement regarding "poor classroom behavior." What does that mean? What if the student is on an IEP?

FM We're not talking about an isolated incident. We're talking about students who have repeatedly had behavioral issues. This is a safety concern. How others view DMS is a concern. We have to cover these issues with our parents. What was written in this document is no different from any other school's policy. An IEP matters. This will be looked at on an individual basis. An student with an IEP still has to pass classes. They have accommodations to assist them to complete assignments. If we do this correctly, we will have good attendance on field trips. I will cover all of this in our teacher meetings.

JT I'm behind you 100% on this, but there's some gray area in Waldorf education. I want to have clarity on these finer points here. "All field trips need to be educational in nature." Is it block specific? Or a state standard?

FM This isn't new in our policy. When the teacher fills out the form, the first line says, "What is the educational component on this field trip?" The teacher will write how the trip ties into their block.

JT I want to be certain that it's clear because Waldorf education teaches heads, hearts, and hands. There's a section regarding the amount of days for trips.

FM This part was written last year, and we didn't change that.

JT Chaperone requirements. One teacher to ten students. That ratio doesn't look good to me.

FM I understand that, but there's a difference of doing a few overnights as opposed to a trip to the botanical gardens. I want to give some freedom there and just offer this as a minimum.

JT Chaperone training. I don't think there's a way to do a quick training. I would want to make sure that parents really understand what is going on on the trip. The last I'd say is regarding fingerprint cards. I think that needs to be clarified. Parents need to know exactly what they need to turn in.

FM Yes, I can add that bit.

JT Thank you for your patience.

DM I would like more time with it to send in some suggestions and revisions.

FM I have no problem working on sentence structure or wording. I wouldn't want some specific details changed. I do know we don't have a lot of meetings in the summer, and people are busy.

AS We have a motion on the table, so it either needs to be recalled or we need to vote. But I will say that we have another meeting in two weeks, and we could vote on a revised document at the next meeting. We just need to put that on the agenda.

DM I would like to recall my motion to approve the field trip policy.

FM Okay, please send me any suggestions you have. AS is right. Two weeks is fine.

## **Continuing Business**

### Survey Update Discussion

DM The survey is now open and out, and I want to say thank you for the feedback that is already coming in. It is anonymous, and I want to thank everyone for their support. And thank you, AS, for sending that out. I appreciate it. We'll compile that information and then move forward.

## **New Business**

No new business.

## **Announcements**

DM The next board meeting is 06/21 at 6:30pm via Zoom. We will review the budget.

DM moved to adjourn tonight's board meeting. NG second. No further discussion. Votes in favor: AS, DM, JT, MM, NG, AP. **Motion passes.**

## **Closing Verse**

JT read the closing verse.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

Prepared by AS on 06.07.2023.