



**MINUTES**  
**VSWEA Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
VIA [Zoom](#)

**Members Present:**

Dan Franks (DF)—President  
April Sauer (AS)—Vice President  
Ashley Parks (AP)—Secretary

John Tanner (JT)  
Danielle Martinez (DM)

**Members Absent: Myriah Mhoon, Nellie Grossenbacher, Ben Fong, and Kerstin Kubina**

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

**Guests**

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

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

Sam Anderson  
Sami Rank  
Nicole Goodman  
Deborah  
Jessica Arbum  
Sarah  
Finnin  
B. Young  
Tammy/tom

**Opening Verse/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. DF read the opening verse and welcomed the attendees.

The Board members introduced themselves as well as FM, PC, and MK.

**Executive Director Updates**

FM This past weekend was the Gala event and I have to celebrate MK and Laura and the many parents for making it a wonderful evening. I appreciate all the hard work they put into this event. Second, on January 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be registering 10 new students, and we have more tours scheduled this week. We had an 8th grade play that was put on. We are appreciative of the many parents that helped with this event. We had a spiral walk, 2/3rds of it was good. We had

some technical difficulties with the first one. You have probably seen some of the emails, but a few families were late, and I had to turn them away. After the initial ceremony we allowed for those that missed to do their own, but the hurt had already been done with the parents. The festival committee sent an email about the rules surrounding the event. I was merely supporting what the festival committee has been doing for twenty years.

DM parents should know about the information before the event. It was not relayed to the parents.

DF improvement in the future, maybe have a preregister? Focus on clearer communication on the timely arrival.

DM I am so sorry the families and children were hurt this way.

AS A letter to the first grade would be good, to apologize. Expectations should be made clear.

PC These families should know we feel their sadness and disappointment.

AP It was heartbreaking for all the families to watch.

FM Friday night is the 10<sup>th</sup> grade play at 12pm and 6pm.

### **Parent Council & Animal Care Updates**

MK this is for animal care. We have all of our programs going. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is doing well with the new schedule. 7<sup>th</sup> grade is great with muck outs. The new prospective barn area is having some delays. FM can you touch on this?

FM We are having kiln issues. The wiring of the kiln makes it difficult to move, so we are in a holding pattern at the moment with the barn.

FM, MK, and DM discuss the barn.

MK this is for parent council. The gala was amazing. Thank you to the parents who helped and attended and the faculty that helped with auction items. The auction is still available for bidding until Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup>. There are a list of things that teachers are wishing for as well, so you can look online and pick what you can afford. All of these items will go straight to the teachers. The next thing is the Angel Room. This is something for the children, it is not a fundraiser. Each class will go to the angel room from youngest to oldest, up through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. They will be able to choose items to gift to others. We are requesting each family donate ten handmade items by this Friday. Spring Faire planning is the next on our list. It will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We want to do the Gala at a different time for next year, so we will be discussing that in the future.

Discussion PC, FM, MK about the bidding of the items for the Gala.

FM I will send out an email about the auction items.

MK Will we be having The Bee?

FM I will work on bringing that back.

DM, PC, and MK discuss angel room items from the highschoolers.

MK and DM discuss timing of winter faire and spring faire.

MK, DM, DF discuss good timing for Gala.

### **Proposed Motions**

DF moved to approve the 11/22/23 regular meeting minutes. DM second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: DF, AS, JT, DM, AP.. **Motion passes.**

### **Continuing Business/Open Issues**

#### ERC Brief Discussion/ Strategy Offsite

DF I met with FM, AP, MM to discuss the ERC monies. We decided we need to have an offsite strategy to discuss the ERC money and plans for the future. What do we want for our strategy and vision to be for the next 1-3 years? We thought we need a better, well thought out plan to share with the community.

DF discusses the strategy offsite and how this would look with a facilitator. We are thinking of doing this sometime in late January or early February.

PC and DF discuss the role of a strategic facilitator.

DF It is a big commitment for the board. Everyone would need to attend.

PC would it be one day?

DF we are going to try and keep it on one day.

DM and FM discuss the making of the wish list of ideas from both faculty/staff and the board on how to utilize the ERC monies.

DF and DM discuss what the facilitator would bring to the table.

### **New Business**

#### Regular Board Topics Working Group

DF DM provided a list of ideas of things we should add to the agendas. Should we have someone helping to decide what is to be discussed? A calendar for board topics.

AS I have already been working on a plan of rotating topics for each meeting. This is something I can do.

DM and AS agreed to work on a calendar for rotating board topics.

### **Announcements**

DF Thank you to parent council for the amazing gala, it was beautiful, the food was fantastic, everything was just so good. Upcoming events for the school are as follows: 12/14/23 is the advent spiral EC and Kinder, 12/15/23 at noon and six the 10<sup>th</sup> grade play, 12/19/23 is a half day. 1/20/23 the children's festival will be held.

FM You will get more information about the children's festival over the break.

DF 1/03/23 school will resume from winter break. Our next board meeting will be 1/17/24 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

DF Any other announcements?

FM Did you get a chance to read the email about the parent-led fundraising? Will we be discussing that now or next meeting?

DF It will be on the next meeting.

DM moved to adjourn the 12/13/23 VSWEA board meeting. AS second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: DF, AS, JT, AP, DM. **Motion passes.**

### **Closing Verse**

AS read the closing verse.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Prepared by AP on 12.13.2023.