

MINUTES
VSWEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, February 17, 2021
VIA [Zoom](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gregory Schneider (GS) – President John Tanner (JT)

April Sauer (AS) – Secretary

Dan Franks (DF) – Treasurer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Danielle Martinez (DM) was absent.

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

GUESTS

Invitees of the Board:

Frank Mirizio (FM)

Priscilla Garza (PG)

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

- Riva Figueroa
- Barb Cunningham
- Colleen Pope

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- Susan Kerr
- Adeline Carrera
- Harper Rose
- JJ
- Shannon Quigley
- Tammy
- Laura Heaney
- Helena Moriarty
- Michelle Kratzer
- Jill Thomas
- Ms. Falconburg
- Kim Baker
- Kerstin Kubina
- Laura Slayton-Garcia
- Cydney

OPENING VERSE / INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm. GS welcomed the public to the meeting, read the opening verse, and reviewed meeting procedures.

The Board members introduced themselves along with FM and PG.

GS Made a brief reminder about how we would return to hybrid should the AZDHS change the recommended delivery model.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Fundraising

GS Asked AS for an update if any regarding fundraising.

AS Hasn't heard from DM regarding the survey she wants to put out to the community to put together a fundraising committee.

Tax Credit and Educational Investment Campaign

GS Asked FM for an update.

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FM Needs to check in with DM as well to see how she would like him to move forward regarding fundraising projects. He's ready to help.

Enrollment Update

GS Asked FM for an enrollment update.

FM The lottery was last Friday, and this Tuesday registration was opened. Today we have 252 K-8 enrolling for next year. 56 high school students for next year. That's 308 possible students. Of course, this is preliminary. We don't know if everyone will enroll, but it's a good start. We also have five tours next week. This would take us from 240 at semester to 255 now to 308 by the beginning of the school year.

GS That's 255 ADM and 308 ADM next year?

FM Yes, that's correct.

AS Offered to give tours if an alternate is needed.

FM He's been starting the tours with Crystal Lee and then she takes them on the tours to follow social distancing guidance, but if in a bind, he'll give AS a call.

JT Gave brief warning regarding what is and isn't said on the tour because families will expect what is said on the tour if they enroll. It is important to share accurate information about our school.

FM Welcomed input from JT regarding tours.

JT Accepted and will follow up with FM Also gave thanks for FM's open door policy.

Financial Updates

PG State Equalization right now is for 248 ADM. We budgeted 258 ADM, so we will need to revise our budget. Reviewed January Profit and Loss. Mentioned expanded spreadsheet and asked if there were any questions.

AS Asked about grocery programs and who advertises that program.

PG Believes it's Parent Council.

AS Will check with Parent Council and see if we can't get another reminder out to the community so those who wish to sign up can do so. Every dollar counts, and that's something simple families can do.

PG Reviewed January Balance Sheet.

GS When do you find out what the next equalization payment will be?

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PG Usually posts the last week of the month.

GS When you get notice, could you forward that information to the board?

PS Yes, I can do that when I get the report. We received notification today that we will be eligible for a second ESSER grant. The allocation is \$150,000. We will need to attend a webinar and apply for the grant.

FM Asked about what the money could be spent on.

PS The first ESSER was all Covid related, but it was flexible. She assumes this one will be flexible too.

JT Who is in charge of the follow up on the ESSER grant? FM, PG, DF?

PG Aspire has this in our contract—to help with grants--and we did apply for the ESSER previously. She is working with staff to keep on top of the grants.

DF Plans on attending ESSER webinar as well.

FM Offered to attend if needed and asked for PG to let him know what she needs from him.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

FM Currently preparing for hybrid education if benchmarks turn yellow. Plan B is cleaning to make sure classrooms are ready. Parents received a survey regarding their plans if we go to hybrid. In regards to computers needed for AZMerit testing, Phoenix had grants for technology. Deb Pawlo followed up, and it looks like we can get 30-100 laptops. Comes with headsets, programs, etc. These are brand new computers. The power would be better than what we have now, so we're real happy with that. Half of parents have already responded to the survey, so that's great. He's forwarding info to teachers regarding which students will be in classrooms and which students will be doing virtual. Asked question regarding bringing day porter back—perhaps the ESSER grant will help to alleviate the strain on the budget.

GS I think with the news of the ESSER grant, it makes sense to do it.

FM Can I move forward and speak with Jessica to get that going?

GS Yes. Unsure if we need to vote, but let's do it to be safe.

GS moved to approve the hiring of Plan B day porter at the rate of less than \$2750 per month utilizing the new round of ESSER funds. DF second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: AS, DF, JT, GS. **Motion Passes.**

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FM Asked questions regarding fundraising plans and cultural training moving forward.

GS Let's kick that one back for a few weeks, and we'll get some follow up information.

FM I'll give her a call and check in. I find conversations are better when they're actual conversations.

DF Comment regarding laptops from Phoenix—I'd be happy to advise regarding proper storage to keep them in the best shape possible.

FM When we get the final yes, I'll have Deb contact you, and we can move forward.

COVID-19

Benchmarks

GS Reviewed Maricopa County benchmarks posted on Thursday, 2/11. It will be updated again tomorrow. This data is from January 24. It takes time for the county to gather complete data. Numbers are trending in the right direction for all three benchmarks. I'd be surprised if the recommended delivery model doesn't change soon. Reviewed more recent data, including today. More good news for all three benchmarks. If the recommended delivery model isn't changed to hybrid tomorrow, it will likely change the following week based on the data.

COMMUNITY

School-wide Contemplation Exercise

GS Picked up progress over the last few weeks. Asked FM for an update.

FM Meeting with Teresa to get the details about the contemplation exercise. He met with Joan and Peter again. He also met with Laura Heaney and Michelle Kratzer since Parent Council helps pay for some teacher development. He discussed issue regarding Waldorf training for the summer for teachers. Asked if he could host a training over the summer at DMS, that way teachers wouldn't have to pay for flights, hotels, etc. If we invited other AZ Waldorf teachers to train here, it would be beneficial for everyone. Peter and Joan loved the idea as well as Michelle and Laura. Joan and Peter will assist in finding trainers. It's not the full training for a Waldorf certificate, but we may have to piecemeal it for our staff who can't afford that high cost. It turns out to be a decent idea, so we'll see if we can get this done this summer.

GS He also met with Joan and Peter regarding the contemplation exercise. In general, everyone is in agreement to do this right after school lets out. We are making fast progress when we have the support of Peter and Joan, Teresa, and Liz Beaven—especially when they all want to see us succeed. We are doing something exciting and growing, and it's really fun to be a part of. I think we can get this done before the start of the next school year. Now we're on the cusp of making it happen. Thanked FM for his work, meeting with people, and building momentum.

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FM I appreciate that, but I am enjoying this immensely, and it's fun to go to work every day.

Town Hall Update

GS We were scheduled for 90 minutes, but we went 2 hours. We took live questions from community members from finance to pedagogy to Covid. It was an excellent conversation. Everyone is passionate about our school. I want to do it again but not too soon. Stay tuned; we're definitely going to do it again. We had nearly 40 participants. That goes to show you the value of the community we have here. That level of turnout for parents is very impressive.

FM Ms. Tami Hendrix has her last day on Friday. She hasn't been here long, but she has been stellar at helping me through as someone new. She knew all the details and all the families. We have Bonnie Chase replacing Tami. We will miss Tami, and we thank her very much for her work.

BOARD PROCEDURES

Approval of Minutes

GS Moved to approve the 02/03/21 regular meeting minutes. DF second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: GS, DF, JT, AS. **Motion passes.**

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

DF read the closing verse.

CLOSING VERSE

Meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

Prepared by AS on 02.17.2021.