

Approved 12.16.20

MINUTES
VSWEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020
VIA [Zoom](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gregory Schneider (GS) – President

John Tanner (JT)

April Sauer (AS) – Secretary

Danielle Martinez (DM)

Dan Franks (DF) – Treasurer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

GUESTS

Invitees of the Board:

Teresa Marzolph (TM)

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

- Becky King
- Juli Curtin
- Steve Clark
- Michelle Kratzer
- Barb Cunningham
- Colleen Pope

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- Deb
- Kristen Ziegenbein
- Harper Rose
- Sami Rank
- Helena Moriarty
- Jill Thomas
- Debbie Natzke
- Heather Sullivan
- JJ
- Kim Baker
- Laura Heaney

OPENING VERSE / INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. GS welcomed the public to the meeting. GS read the opening verse and reviewed meeting procedures. The Board members introduced themselves.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Grant Updates

GS ESGrant numbers came back \$125,000 from the state. Also on track for the ESSER grant to get \$50,000. Aspire will be helping with that.

Enrollment Update

GS Up a bit from last meeting. PreK-12 is 281. 6 enrollments and 1 withdrawal.

Marketing and Fundraising Options

GS Wanting to begin to focus more on this. Danielle expressed some interest in this. Asked her thoughts on the topic.

DM She is willing to help with that.

GS Will send over materials.

AS Sending over links to fundraising drives and will send over grants spreadsheet. Offered to help DM in these efforts.

Other Budget and Finance Matters

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GS RSF is official, final, and done as is the restructuring of a loan from our anonymous lender. Went from 19k to 8k per month. This is 11k a month in debt service savings. RSF expires in March 2022.

AS Thanked team who worked with RSF to finalize the loan.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

TM To remain in hybrid and due to the recent executive order, we went to a more robust face mask policy, which is in effect now. Two big changes to that: One, wearing masks in doors (exceptions for accommodations) and two, for ages 2 and up kids should be wearing masks, so our younger students are now wearing masks. Required reporting to the county, so in order to remain in hybrid we must be diligent. Close contact and positive cases require 14 days of quarantine. 14 days from now is getting close to the holidays, so we want everyone to stay safe and follow the updated guidelines.

TM Notified on break that we are under charter review. Compliance from board and school, documentation and evidence is required. Faculty and staff has been instrumental in getting this together because the timeline was so short. She is grateful for staff that has supported these efforts. Monday 8am is deadline. Should be done by Friday.

TM Opening posted on website for grades teachers. There is a teacher shortage, but we are getting some good candidates and the grades realm chairs are helping with those efforts.

GS Thank you for your hard work on such short notice. Thanks to teachers and staff for helping.

AS Possibility of getting some more Waldorf trained teachers who may apply. They weren't the right fit for the executive director, but they may wish to apply to teach at DMS.

COVID-19

GS Review of AZDHS county data. Jumps in all three categories, but the recommendation is still hybrid. If we would like to stay in hybrid we need to be rigorous in following our policies to mitigate the risk and keep everyone safe. Other, more recent data regarding hospital covid-like illness—numbers are jumping up. From Maricopa county—After 11/8 we went up to 11% and the numbers continued to climb ending with the latest date 11/29 at 19%. Some concerns have been raised from the high school. They would like to be all virtual at this time. We may need to discuss this more.

TM Before the break the HS had two close contact notifications. As a result, the HS was almost entirely remote. We had connectivity issues and teachers shifted to online. Most HS students at this time are virtual by choice. Survey will be going out to all parents regarding January attendance—in person or virtual.

GS Proposed adding another question to the survey.

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DF Noted that data is two weeks behind.

GS Thanked TM for her efforts to stay on top of the updates in regards to Covid19.

TM Thanked the staff for the quick change to virtual and being so flexible.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

Advisory Panel Update

AS Interviews took place. Panel met to discuss the interviews and which applicants we would recommend to move forward to the second round of interviews with the board. We are currently finalizing the presentation for the Board and will be ready to share that soon. So now we need to schedule these meetings.

GS Availability in the evening next week?

DF, JT, DM available in the evening.

AS Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evening for 2 hours.

GS agrees. Possible last meeting might go longer to fully discuss candidates.

AS 6:30-8:30pm. She will schedule the interviews for Wednesday and Thursday.

GS Will schedule 3 special meetings for next week 12/8-10. He will work on agendas for special meetings. Those will be in Executive Session.

AS Thanks to the Advisory Panel. They have put in hours and hours of work poring over resumes and cover letters and discussing what's best for our staff, students, community. They interviewed all day and took notes and discussed the applicants at length. The work has been tremendous. Feeling proud and grateful.

BOARD PROCEDURES

Approval of Minutes

GS Moved to approve the minutes of our 11/18/20 regular board meeting. JT second. No further discussion. Vote in favor: GS, DF, JT, AS Abstaining: DM. **Motion passes.**

ADE/ACB Compliance

GS Submitted requests to the state to finalize our documentation and get us updated. This is our five year update. He has a list in spreadsheet form in our drive. He'd like to look at it yearly to check in.

AS Want me to add that to the calendar?

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GS Yes, November and December would be great times to check in on that.

GS Nathaniel Allen has resigned from the Board of Directors. We thank him for his service and wish him well. We also need to authorize a signer on the account to replace John Elling

GS Moved to remove John Elling as an authorized signer on the MidFirst account and add Dan Franks, the new treasurer, as an authorized signer on the account. JT second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: JT, GS, AS, DM, DF. **Motion passes.**

DM In regards to the ED applicants, may I have a list, notes, etc?

AS Yes, you will have access to resumes, cover letters, interview guides, rating, community survey with results, etc. Also, Dan and I will be presenting a high level summary of the Advisory Panel findings to the Board. Currently working on reorganizing some files for the next round of interviews. Will send links once they are available.

DM Who is doing background checks, calling references, etc?

AS I'm currently calling references. Some applicants already have fingerprint clearance cards and other licenses in their files, but there will still be some details to hash out once we're at the contract stage.

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

CLOSING VERSE

Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Prepared by AS on 12.02.2020.