



**MINUTES**  
**VSWEA Board of Directors Special Meeting**  
Wednesday, November 02, 2022  
VIA [Zoom](#)

---

**Members Present:**

Kerstin Kubina (KK)—President  
April Sauer (AS)—Secretary  
John Tanner (JT)

Danielle Martinez (DM)  
Ben Fong (BF)  
Myriah Mhooon (MM)  
Nellie Grossenbacher (NG)

**Members Absent: Scott Edwards and Dan Franks**

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

**Guests**

Invitees of the Board:  
Frank Mirizio (FM)  
Ashley Parks (AP)

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

Michelle K

**Opening Verse/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 5:03pm. KK welcomed the public to the meeting, read the opening verse, and reviewed the agenda.

The Board members introduced themselves as well as FM and AP.

KK Shared some information about the upcoming 11/16 meeting and the voting/election process.

**New Business**

Board Interview

AS Tell us a little bit about yourself.

AP Has one child in early childhood. Family moved here about a year and a half ago to the San Tan area. She's a child development specialist. Taught PreK and educators at the college level. She worked on curriculum with teachers. Has degrees in child development. Working on doctorate in psychology right now. Loves the outdoors, has some animals—goats, mini horse, dogs.

BF What made you interested in joining the board?

AP Since she's paused her career to take care of her husband, she's working on her doctorate but has more to give. Feels like she has a lot to offer due to her education.

KK What skills do you have that you think will fit to serve the school as a board member?

AP Able to see situations through multiple lenses. She's a parent and a specialist in development, so everything she does is in relation to what's best for children.

DM In your opinion, what is the biggest concern facing DMS right now?

AP Coming in as a new parent, I think communication is an issue. I didn't know what to do. I read the handbook, but I still didn't know all the details. The Bee has started, and that is helpful. I really enjoy that. I think it would be interesting to have a beginner class for incoming parents—maybe even a video.

JT Ms. Parks, what do you think is going well at Desert Marigold right now?

AP The teachers. As a teacher, I can tell when we have good teachers. The choice of teachers is really great at DMS.

MM What has the board done well this past year?

AP I've only been watching the board for a few months since I'm new, but I do appreciate the transparency. I also think from what I can tell, it looks like you really address what the community is concerned about. I really like that you were involved in the Town Hall. It's nice to see.

NG What could the board do better or differently in your small experience here?

AP I don't know. I don't know what your parent component is. There's not a lot of people who show up to the board meetings. I think this is important for parents to see and hear about.

AS What types of volunteering have you done in the last month?

AP I'm part of the Parent Council and have been working with Laura and Michelle. I started the book club, and we're reading the Whole Brain Child. I'm also trying to implement a parent evening as well.

BF What is your availability for time commitment to the board?

AP I have lots of time on my hands. I only have one child, and he's very independent. I'm working on my doctorate, but I have a lot of time to give.

KK If selected as a board member, what committees or projects would you like to focus on in your first year?

AP I don't know what committees or projects are available. If there was some sort of parent relations situation, I'd love to do that. Being on the board would be a learning experience, so I'm open to whatever is needed.

DM What conflicts of interest do you anticipate as a board member and how will you manage them?

AP I think the only conflict I'd have is finding the balance between family, school work, and this. My family will always be number one as my priority.

JT Ms. Parks, how do you work through conflict with your peers?

AP I'm a pretty direct person. I'm honest. If something is bothering me, I say it. Communication is key. I think having an understanding that we all come from a different background, keeps me open minded.

MM Thank you for answering all of our questions. To wrap up, what questions do you have for us?

AP I don't think I have any at this point. I spoke with KK a bit, and I think you've covered everything.

KK We will vote at the next meeting, and we will also be able to ask follow up questions. You will also be able to ask some questions as well. Thank you again for attending. I believe that will wrap up our meeting.

KK moved to adjourn the 11/02/22 special board meeting. NG second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, JT, DM, MM, BF, NG. **Motion passes.**

### **Closing Verse**

AS read the closing verse.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:21pm.

Prepared by AS on 11.02.2022.