



MINUTES
VSWEA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 22, 2023
VIA [Zoom](#)

Members Present:

Kerstin Kubina (KK)—President	John Tanner (JT)
April Sauer (AS)—Secretary	Ben Fong (BF)
Danielle Martinez (DM)	Nellie Grossenbacher (NG)

Members Absent: Dan Franks, Myriah Mhoon, and Ashley Parks

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

Guests

Invitees of the Board:

Frank Mirizio (FM)

Sophie McCurley (SM)

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

Tammy Lopez	H
Deb	Michelle Kratzer she/her
P. Cummings	Jeff Hurd

Opening Verse/Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm. KK welcomed the public to the meeting, read the opening verse, and reviewed the agenda.

The Board members introduced themselves along with FM.

Executive Director Updates

FM The woodshop is up and in the process of getting AC, electrical, etc. I'm hoping to give a tour of the woodshop and the finished high school to those who attend the Town Hall. We've had two teachers step up to coach volleyball. This came from the kids. They came to suggest it to me. I'm a little nervous about our enrollment right now because the state is dragging its feet to solidify a budget. We're at 286, but we have 294 enrolled for next year. I think we'll get about 8-9 more kids, so I'm hoping to meet 300-310. That will look wonderful in our budget. We practiced state testing and ACT testing for the high school. Deb has everyone trained and ready to go. It's 30 days of testing for our school, but we're prepared. Hector and Steve and trying to shore up holes in stucco and repaint and try to work on the parking lot. We put in 2 air conditioners in 1st/2nd grade and 2 in EC. We covered these with a grant and M & O. We were able to cover these expenses, so that makes me smile. We have a current 3rd grade teacher opening for next year. That position has been posted, and we have an interview coming up next week.

AS At our last meeting we changed the next town hall to Thursday, June 8th due to a budget meeting conflict. I want to make sure that it's accurate on everyone's calendars.

FM That's right. I will change that tomorrow. Thank you.

KK Did those AC's come out of our February budget?

FM No, we have not been billed for that yet. I have some good news, my daughter and son in law came over and announced that they're expecting a baby, so that will make me a grandpa, but no one here can call me grandpa.

Marketing and Development Updates

SM The sustaining fund has raised 2k just last month. We're up to 30% participation. Tax credits are going up. I think we're at 37 contributions. We have a few classes competing for the pizza party. NG and I were able to get the store up and running. Deb sent out notice about that today. We got some really sweet submissions, and we've contacted the kids who won the art contest. The website is through a third party. They print on demand and ship it to the customer, then the school gets sent a check. I believe there's a link on the community page. Lastly, I am working on the next issue of the Bloom. If the board wants to submit something, that would be due by April 1st.

KK I love the store. AS, this brought me back to when we were trying to finish this up. I'm so grateful it's done, and the artwork is just so cute.

AS Yes, I echo that. KK and I tried and tried and failed. It was just not in our wheelhouse, so I'm so thankful that you and NG took that on and brought it to completion. It's awesome.

SM Thank you. NG had the contact and worked through it.

Financial Update

KK Shared her screen to show Forecast with Budget. We may be a little in the red for March due to the AC's. How many have we replaced in the last couple of years?

FM We've done 7th, 8th, 5th, 2 in 1st and 2nd, and then 2 in EC, but those 2 came out of a grant for EC. We are not predicting any failures. We had everything inspected. We replaced all the ones that were expected to fail in the next heat wave.

KK We have 3 months expenses in savings, and this is why. We want to have that money on hand for these types of things that pop up. But I think this shows that we've really smoothed out some of those peaks and valleys and have brought some stability to our budget. I know FM and Monique have really spent time going over the budget, so I want to thank you for that. Shared Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss on her screen.

Proposed Motions

KK moved to approve the 02/15/23 regular board meeting minutes. AS second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, JT, DM, BF. Abstain: NG. **Motion passes.**

KK moved to approve the 02/15/23 Executive Session meeting minutes. AS second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, JT, BF, DM. Abstain: NG. **Motion passes.**

KK moved to go into Executive Session for discussion of adding two new positions and the hiring and retaining of staff and invite Frank Mirizio into the session. AS second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, JT, BF, DF, DM. **Motion passes.**

Executive session began at 6:56pm.

The minutes of the Executive Session are confidential and are maintained separately pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(B).

Executive session ended at 8:02pm.

KK moved to create a new part time SPED Director position in which Mr. Mirizio will create the job description and salary for the board to review and vote on at the April 19th board meeting. DM seconded. No further discussion. Votes in Favor: KK, AS, JT, BF, NG, DM. **Motion Passes.**

KK moved to create a new Development Coordinator position in which Mr. Mirizio will create the job description and salary for the board to review and vote on at the April 19th board meeting. NG seconded. Unanimous Vote in Favor: KK, AS, DM, NG, BF. **Motion Passes.**

Continuing Business/Open issues

Substance Abuse Program

FM We agreed that next year we will use the Waldorf program. This year in April we will use our own counselor to do some work with the students.

KK And that will start this April?

FM Yes.

DM I was happy to provide the research, and I'm glad that we'll be utilizing both services.

KK What grades are we starting with this year?

FM I think it's 6/7/8 and 10th.

New Business

Survey Update Discussion

AS I can tell you about the dates that we put on our calendar, but I do not have the survey as that was created by DM and Dan. We simply have it on our agenda for this month. It's not on next month, but we can add it if we want to review the survey. We plan to finalize it at our May 17th meeting and have it live by May 19th.

DM Agreed to send out the survey for the board to review, and we will discuss it at our next meeting.

Board Applications

AS The first community letter went out on 3/10. I'll send out another reminder on 3/24. Applications will be due on 4/1. Our applicant interview is on 5/3. That is during Medieval Games. I know we have some 6th grade parents on the board, so if you plan to be there, we may need to reschedule that meeting. Then the final vote is on 5/17. That's all I have, just reminders.

KK Thank you, AS.

Charters at the Capital

DM I signed us up for a table at no cost. Last year, many of the tables were only K-8, so it was great to also represent high school. I brought lots of items to look at. It's a day out in the sun. They serve lunch, but they did run out last year. They had some entertainment.

FM DM, can you bring students?

DM Yes, we can, but we do have to say how many.

NG It's 11:00-1:30pm.

DM Questions? I may not be able to go if I can't get that day off.

NG I may be able to attend.

KK Maybe Ashley can attend.

AS Would you like me to put that on our February calendar and agenda for next year so we can talk about it early?

KK Yes, please.

NG Do we have any swag we can bring? Or a brochure?

FM We have a tour brochure. I'm going to see if Ms. Cummings can attend, and I'll think of some students to send.

DM We have a table but no shade.

FM That's fine. I'm going to work on that tomorrow.

DM I sent a link out that has their FAQ and more information.

Changes to open meeting laws

KK There are several changes that may be coming to Open Meeting Law. I will try to keep us updated. There are four pending. Just wanted to put this on our minds.

Announcements

KK The ACWE Meeting is Saturday, 3/25/23 in the Eurythmy Room at 8:30am.

FM It's exciting. We have a special guest speaker. Joan promises that he's very good. This is the third time we've hosted, and the numbers of attendees keep going up.

KK The Town Hall is Wednesday, 3/29/23 at 5:00pm out front. FM and I will be there along with Dr. Darian. Our next board meeting is 4/19/23 at 6:30pm via zoom.

KK moved to adjourn the 03/22/23 board meeting. NG second. No further discussion.
Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, JT, DM, NG, BF. **Motion passes.**

Closing Verse

DM read the closing verse.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Prepared by AS on 03.22.2023.