

APPROVED AT 4/15/2020 MEETING

MINUTES
VSWEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY APRIL 1, 2020
VIA YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM: https://youtu.be/p_h7a_gEqBMv

VIA ZOOM:
<https://zoom.us/j/991085795?pwd=MINhYW9xdlk2Nm02dmZid0NYL0V5UT>

09
DESERT MARIGOLD SCHOOL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Matthew Walker – President (M.W.) | John Tanner (J.T.) |
| John Elling – Treasurer (J.E.) | Julie Haines (J.H.) |
| Gregory Schneider – Secretary (G.S.) | |

MEMBERS ABSENT

The President, Treasurer, and Secretary were present and a quorum was reached. Member April Sauer was absent.

GUESTS

Invitees of the Board:

- Christie Kriegsfeld
- Laura Heaney

Members of the public present via Zoom/YouTube:

- Barb Cunningham
- Meghan Kelsey
- Michelle K
- Jean Falconburg
- Jennifer
- Martin
- Sami Rank
- Luis Camacho
- Maria Cardenas
- Daniele Ippoliti
- Adeline Carrera
- Jessica Jarrett
- Harper Rose Harris
- Juli Curtin
- Danielle Martinez
- Nathaniel Williamson
- Sarah Williamson

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- Michelle Kratzer
- Luis Camacho
- Steve Pawlo
- Martin Duncan
- Unknown number of other live viewers on YouTube.

OPENING VERSE

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Board Members introduced themselves and review of meeting procedure occurred.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M.W. moves to approve 3/18/2020 minutes, J.E. – second. No discussion. Vote: 4/0/1 – M.W., J.E., J.T., J.H. in favor, G.S. abstained from the vote. **Motion passes.**

BOARD PROCEDURES

M.W. – First item to discuss. Requirements to become a board member are on the website. We've received a few applications.

G.S. – Reminder that applications are due April 1, and we need to follow procedures about meeting with the applicant and LDC.

M.W. – Need to clarify whether the meetings are regular or special. Today's meeting is a "regular" meeting. At the 3/18 board meeting we discussed wanting to add new meetings in between those already scheduled, we intended for those to also be "regular" meetings. Thus, we are having a regular meeting today.

General consensus is reached among all board members on this front.

J.H. – Two meetings within the last 6 months? How do we take attendance?

General discussion ensues by M.W., G.S., and J.H.

M.W. – Email me if you attended the March 18, 2020 meeting and want to have your attendance recorded. For today's meeting, do the same. mwalker@desertmarigold.org. Between now and the next meeting, we will figure out a way to record attendance for next meeting and put that procedure in the public notice.

COVID-19

Update from administration:

C.K. – School closures are mandated for the rest of the academic year by the state. Our last day of school was supposed to be 5/22/2020. We published our remote learning plan on 3/27/2020. Yesterday we distributed the packets of information, both online and in paper. It went smoothly and we are working out the kinks. We are making alternative arrangements for those who do not have access to technology.

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Faculty is working collaboratively to provide learning opportunities and content and to remain consistent with Waldorf pedagogy. This is challenging, but they are being very creative. We are working on ways to provide additional supports to students and teachers.

We are also in contact with the state and Department of Education to make sure we are meeting all requirements for meeting educational requirements for students, compensation for faculty and staff, and abiding by the new state at home order just issued by the governor. Schools are necessary functions that remain 'open' but we have to work with the social distancing constraints.

State board yesterday issued additional guidance and adopted emergency rules regarding high school graduation and diplomas and pathways to graduation in light of the pandemic and school closures.

Additionally, new legislation requires local education agency to offer education opportunities to continue receiving funding. The school board and ADE are required to complete a Remote Opportunity Learning Form and submit it to the state and the deadline to submit it to the state is 4/15/2020. We foresee no problem meeting that deadline.

School is developing a plan for normal end of year activities, including picking up personal items and work done throughout the year.

We really appreciate the support of the community and the kind messages to the faculty and staff during this extremely challenging time.

G.S. – How is school overcoming challenges of adapting Waldorf curriculum to this situation?

C.K. – It's a huge challenge. We are working with other schools. We have delivery of materials online and in person.

J.T. – Yes, it's a bit of a conflict between the pedagogy and the need to use technology.

J.H. – Do all the kids have tech they need?

C.K. – No, but we are making alternative arrangements for all children so they have access to the opportunities.

M.W. – For non-educational aspects, what is happening at the school? Are people still coming to campus? How does the stay at home order work?

C.K. – We are trying to work as remotely as possible, but since we are an "essential service" we can still have people come to campus to complete necessary tasks.

M.W. – So the school is mandated to be closed but is also an essential service that can remain "open"?

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C.K. – Yes, and that is the challenge we are working with.

M.W. – What about other services, school grade, funding?

C.K. – We are starting to get more guidance from ADE on each of these things. Special education services are starting to happen. ADE says funding should be based on the 100th day attendance, which we know was good.

G.S. – Did we get the equalization payment? Was it as expected?

C.K. – We can see that it is about \$11,000 less than we were expecting. We have a plan to appeal it to the state.

M.W. – What about the private program? And billing done for those services?

C.K. – We are canceling the private program for the rest of the year. We will not be charging for those services. And we are canceling all automatic payments. We are also asking those who paid in advance whether they would like a refund or they would like to convert those funds into a donation to the school.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

M.W. – John Elling, can you give us an update on discussions with Aspire?

J.E. – Yes, I've been in touch with Priscilla. We are getting updated information and Priscilla is planning to be present for the next board meeting to meet us all.

M.W. – Should we dive into the CARES Act and Paycheck Protection Program? Background: This is legislation that Congress recently passed and the president signed as part of the \$2 trillion stimulus. There are one or more programs DMS could take advantage of right now. I believe we are capped at about 2.5X the amount of average monthly payroll. Allows for broad usage of the money. But you have to be careful around loan forgiveness to make sure you qualify.

J.E. – Payroll in March was \$134,000, not including benefits.

J.H. – This almost sounds too good to be true, but if it works it sounds very good. If the gates open Friday morning

G.S. – How do we get comfortable with making sure we are complying with the terms that would allow the loan to be forgiven?

M.W. – Could Aspire help with this?

J.E. – I will definitely ask Aspire. If we do get it, these funds should not go into the general fund but should be used exclusively for approved expenses.

M.W., J.H., J.E., G.S., J.T., and C.K. engage in general discussion ensues regarding risks, and potential rewards, of getting an SBA 7(a) Paycheck Protection Program loan.

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M.W. – G.S. will review forgiveness mechanics and the application itself. J.E. will reach out to Aspire and see if they can assist in proper recordkeeping. M.W. will reach out to RSF. We will all be mindful that we need to act quickly.

M.W. – Thank you everyone for being nimble and leveraging personal professional experience to help out here.

M.W. – Quick update on conversation with RSF. Myself, G.S., and J.E. met with Amy Bird (relationship manager) and Kate Danaher (Chief Lending Officer). It was a good and healthy and productive call, and we are restarting and rebuilding that relationship. The way we left it was that RSF was going to ask for some additional financial information, and possibly some other financial information. We asked for a timeline/milestones for refinancing the loan as has happened every handful of years in the past.

J.E. – Agree. They seem very positive about continuing the relationship.

G.S. – Explained the structure and terms of the loan with RSF and the importance of engaging in the refinance process that we have done about every 5 years since 1996.

M.W. – Budget. Obviously that is underway.

J.E. – Yes, we are working on getting this done much more quickly than usual so that we have everything in place well in advance of usual. Contracts with teachers will go out soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adeline Carrera: Noted a need for new leadership on the board who have experience with the school and a Waldorf administrator.

Jim Bob: Asked for additional information regarding the LDC and its role at the school.

Barb Cunningham: Thanked the board for beginning a search for an executive director and asked for an anonymous feedback survey to be issued to take the “pulse” of the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next regular board meeting: 4/1/2020, 6:30 p.m., via YouTube live stream, link forthcoming.

CLOSING VERSE

G.S. – move to adjourn, J.H – second, Vote: Unanimous (J.H., G.S., J.E., M.W., J.T.). **Motion passes.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Prepared by G.S. on 4/1/2020 and revised on 4/__/2020, incorporating comments from __ herein.