

Sept. 26, 2019 Vermilion Country School Board minutes
Meeting was underway at 4 p.m.

Members present: Dick Larmouth, Marit Kringstad, Jodi Summit, Paula Herbranson, Karin Schmidt (late)

Absent: Kristen Krings (excused)

Also present: Frank Zobitz

Motion to approve the agenda by Marit, second by Dick- all yes

Motion to approve the minutes from Aug 22, 2019 meeting-
Motion by Dick, second by Paula- all yes

4.1 Edvisions Contract- to provide HR resources/support

Motion to approve Edvisions Contract for the 2019-2020 school year by Dick, second by Paula-
all yes

4.2 Annual Charter School Assurances

Motion to approve annual Charter School Assurance by Paula, second by Dick- all yes

4.3 School leader succession planning information

For board information/ no action needed

4.4 Crisis Management Policy

Motion to approve Crisis Management policy by Dick, second by Marit- all yes

No changes needed since last approval

4.5 Donation for National Alliance for Public Charter School court case

Motion to ask Friends of VCS to make a donation on behalf of VCS by Marit, second by Dick- all
yes

4.6 Revised school calendar/board meeting calendar

Staff made some minor corrections to the school calendar, doesn't change instructional days or
vacation days, and updated board meeting schedule to note exact dates and times

Both will be posted/updated on the website

Motion to approve both updated calendars by Karin, second by Paula- all yes

4.7 E-rate contract with Skogen Educational Services

Contract for \$1,500 for the year

We qualify at the 90% tier

Motion to approve the contract with Skogen for this school year-

Motion by Dick, second by Marit- all yes

4.8 CTC Contract

Currently have phone and internet through Frontier, paying \$630 internet, \$250 phone, plus fees/taxes, with 70 megs/second internet speed. The school is not tied into a phone contract at this time, but is tied in for the remainder of a five-year internet contract.

We now have fiber optics installed at the building which can deliver 1,000 megs/second. CTC wants to provide phone/internet, and will manage everything inside the building up to the wireless access points. CTC will give us a credit, equivalent to our fee to Frontier, to in essence help us pay off the Frontier contract. Frank reports that the school's cost will be the same, with much better performance. School needs to take advantage of the broadband speeds for all the new equipment we are receiving as part of the Blandin Broadband grant.

Motion to approve a five-year contract with CTC- motion by Marit, second by Dick- all yes

4.9 Annual Report discussion

The board discussed who will be responsible for compiling which sections of the report, and will have the report ready for approval at the October meeting.

4.10 Audubon Board observation notes

Board discussed the comments from Audubon, noted that many of the items the board did not have on the agenda during this meeting were due to the fact it was summer, and were not discussing student performance. Also since our business manager had just come on board, did not have financials yet to discuss. The board noted which items need to be discussed on a regular basis.

4.11 Audubon Leaders Retreat

Frank and Dick will sign up to attend

4.12 Vermilion CC PSEO contract

2 students are attending VCC this year

Motion to approve the VCC PSEO contract by Karin, second by Dick- all yes

5. Board training

Set a schedule for upcoming meetings

November- data privacy and Hipaa board training

December- have new business manager come to meeting to do overview of her financial reports

January- Will develop a training, possibly based on materials from the Audubon Leadership Conference

6.1 Financials- July and August combined

Revenue of \$50,689.93

Expenses of \$42,224.54

Motion to approve financial report by Dick, second by Marit- all yes

7. Report from Frank Zobitz

New school administrator delivered a detailed report on his activities and work of the staff at the school so far this year. Items included a new organizational structure for school staff committees, simplifying the committee structure into two groups: Operations and Academics. Staff reported positive comments to date on the new structure; New school newsletter coming in October, will be sent to parents and on website, facebook postings- help to tell our story; Security Camera system is being repaired; City did work on building/grounds over the summer Have done a lot of site cleanup- getting rid of old desks- on our way to getting a nice campus and clean working environment; Front door- being updated to hook fire alarm system to locking door; Thanks Paula and Karin for their work on all the Title grants; Enrollment- 34 plus 1 new application underway, staff expect more students to enroll in October/November as has been the past experience; Blandin grant update- digital piano lab is ordered, smartboards ordered, interior building fiber optic installation being scheduled; Open campus for 11th and 12th graders; Curriculum: Teachers are using Google Classroom- allows us to keep everything in one place, also using it internally for EE planning; Using Overcoming Obstacles curriculum in advisory, in October, will focus on bullying, safety, and our school mission and vision; Environmental ed on Wednesdays has been working out really well, nice to have something different mid-week, students are engaged, first-ever VCS mini-bioblitz is set for next Wednesday; students are spending 15 minutes a day outdoors in “their spot” and journaling; Frank is reviewing policies, seeing what needs to be updated; Student council is up and running; Fall beginning of year NWEA testing is completed, do again in January and in spring; ADSIS is underway- have identified students who require extra instruction time in language arts and/or math and those classes have begun; Board will need to look at changing staff SPP description, once the new system has another month or two to work out the kinks. The new organizational system is more efficient.

The board talked about increasing parental involvement. Frank talked about ways we can “bring school to the parents” without requiring them to be at school during the workday. It was noted that at least two of our families do not have internet access at home- School will look into options for providing a cellular hot spot.

Finance committee will meet once the audit is completed, and will look at this year’s budget, updating staffing, costs, and enrollment.

Next meeting is Oct. 24 at 4pm

Motion to adjourn at 5:38 by Karin- all yes