

Vermilion Country School

Oct. 1, 2020

4 p.m.

School Board meeting minutes

Meeting postponed from Sept. 24 due to lack of a quorum

Present: Paula Herbranson, Karin Schmidt, Marit Kringstad, Jodi Summit, Dick Larmouth via teleconference

Not present: Kristin Krings, absent, will be removed as a member, need to recruit a new parent member, will send a notice out to parents

Also present: Frank Zobitz

Motion to accept the agenda by Marit, second by Paula- all yes

Motion to approve the Aug 27, 2020 minutes by Karin, second by Paula- all yes

Environmental Education Goals:

These were put together three years ago, working on getting better at what we have done, and pushing students to a higher level of understanding. EE topics are part of school curriculum, building in as many connections as possible. Pre and post quizzes on general EE knowledge. Did the pre-test last year, but not end of year test.

The plan includes the creation of common language development, academic scientific language development, and stand-alone EE class are being offered this year.

There aren't any state standards, but school has worked to incorporate EE standards into core academic classes.

Data collection, analysis, reporting skills- students all have EE journals to record data. Students have spots outdoors for regular observation. Students are getting much better at doing these observations/recording data, yesterday Mike Joint had to chase a bear out of the woods.

Writing skills need to be worked on with kids at this age.

Last goal deals with actions- something we haven't focused on yet. Need to solidify the basic skills first.

Had to cancel the Expo last spring, not sure how to do it this year with Covid. Hard to do all the planning and then have it canceled due to covid...

Academic goals:

These are reported in our annual report

They understand we couldn't collect data last spring, but need to report why it wasn't recorded. Only did testing last fall, and no state MCAs, so data for last year will be incomplete.

Karin reported that test scores this fall were better than she expected, pretty consistent with previous year, with some dips seen.

Did the fall MAP testing, students are placed in appropriate ADSIS classes as needed. ADSIS offers students who are below grade level but who do not qualify for special education services additional class time in reading/language arts and/or math as needed.

ADSI Reading- 9 students

ADSIS Math- 13 students

There are 9 special ed students this year

Board training

Board members will review Sounding Board on Duties and Responsibility of board members, governance vs management

Financials for August

Deposits of \$43,386.96

Withdrawals of \$72,383.34

Expenses posted to Smartfinance of \$58,001.03

Cash flow is a little tight to due to expenditures of CARES funding that hasn't been reimbursed yet, and haven't received last year's holdback dollars yet

Motion to approve August financials by Paula, second by Karin- all yes

School updates/Reports

Frank- it is taking some time to get back into the groove, made some changes, they are positive but having trouble getting into new routines. For example, all core classes in the morning, afternoons have rotating elective blocks. Core classes are off and running. Electives get students involved in different ways- piano lessons, EE, outdoor activities, advisories, shop, life skills.

Having to shut down in-person classes for a week (due to possible staff COVID case, which turned out to be negative) have made getting back into a routine a little harder.

Enrollment- at 30 students (36 ADM) plus 3 PSEO, budget is based on 40 ADM, added 4 students since start of school year. Had two meeting with public health nurse, COVID numbers in the county are rising, looks like we will have to move into hybrid, but that means no changes at our building. Long-term care residents and college cases are fueling the rise in case numbers.

Fall camping trip was canceled last week

Did do outdoor activities with students one day this week and again next week

Went canoeing, fishing, hiking, and birdwatching at Sax-Zim bog

Auditors will be at school on Oct. 21-22

Oct 2- doing road cleanup on Hwy 169

Discussion about compliance with mask-wearing rules- most students are doing fine, a few having a rough time, doing gentle reminders, and student are reminding each other.

Motion to adjourn at 4:53 p.m.