

February 25, 2021
VCS Board Meeting
4pm

Present: Karin Schmidt, Jodi Summit, Paula Herbranson, Marit Kringstad
Absent: Dick Larmouth (resigning)
Also present: Frank Zobitz, Michelle Lubinski (will be new parent board member)
Visiting from Osprey Wilds- Nalani McCuthcheon on video-conference

Motion to accept, with regrets, the resignation of board member Dick Larmouth by Paula,
second by Marit- all yes
Jodi will send Dick a thank you card

Additions to agenda
Testing update from Karin- 4.3

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

Motion to approve consent agenda, minutes from Jan. 28 meeting, by Marit, second by Paula-
all yes

Learning Plan update
Students are in school Tuesday/Wed/Thursday, all three are full days, distance learning on
Mondays and Fridays
Teachers report our students learn best when they are here, attendance is up and down
Teachers are doing their best to reach out to students who are struggling with attendance.
Every student is assigned to a para who checks in with them every day.
SLC Covid rate jumped up (doubled) this past week, so need to continue in this model
Karin- doing online only on Monday/Friday easier for teachers, then really look forward to
having kids in building
Teachers report they are seeing more positive attitude with the students

Marketing
Ad hoc marketing committee, Jodi/Frank/Jolene/Karin/student (absent today)
Goal is to get our name/mission out there to increase enrollment for next year
Four main items:
newspaper inserts, print up 20,000 flyers, insert 1xmonth
VCS prize van- would get help from staff/students, need banner for side of van, give out prizes,
would be weather dependent, need to purchase school gear like sweatshirts/hoodies/hats,
Could hand out sweatshirts as prizes once a week to students,
Take professional photos of our students/school
Facebook marketing- work with a firm that specializes in charter school marketing and ads will
be targeted at our area demographics
Total cost of \$10,000

Friends/TSAA can contribute about \$4,000 for marketing

Motion to establish a budget item for marketing, amount not to exceed \$6,000, by Karin, second by Paula- all yes

NWEA testing update

The students did winter NWEA testing. Karin reported this provides data for the teachers. The math results were very positive, but testing conditions during the reading sections were not optimal (the building was very cold), which appeared to really affect student engagement with the testing. Students will be tested again in the spring, along with the state testing. Karin reported that between 8-10 students are receiving ADSIS services in reading and/or math. Karin also updated the board on the changes in special education delivery.

Board training

Watched a leader evaluation video from mncharterboard.com

Effective evaluations can improve school performance

Board is required to evaluate administrators in six areas

Evaluation can be done in a closed meeting with proper notification unless individual requests it be kept open

Frank reported that the staff evaluation process has started.

Jodi will start working on assembling info for the admin evaluation by the board

Frank's updates

- VCS got a grant for program for school safety- 3-year grant, anonymous way for students/staff to report harassment/bullying, uses an app, notifies school admin/office immediately if larger problems reported, smaller issues may be reported next day
- State testing is coming up- no remote testing allowed at this point in time.
- Most staff are vaccinated
- Students from the ERATS charter school are now attending, remotely, some language arts classes at VCS. Karin reports it appears to be working well. ERATS students will be joining some math classes also. ERATS is helping fund some of the payroll costs for these two teachers. Karin said they are looking at whether VCS students can join in to classes at ERATS, to increase our offerings.
- We got a PPP loan from federal gov't- a little over \$90,000 now in our bank, it's a loan at this time, but as long as we use it for salary/utilities, it should be forgiven.
- Frank has attended first meeting of his leadership mentorship series, and has completed charter school bootcamp series by MDE.

January Financials

Revenue- \$72,889.50

Withdrawals- \$46,421.49

Expenses posted to SmartFinance- \$61,375.45

Pam Z- current budget shows loss of about \$5,000, but this isn't counting some covid-related grants that the school is expecting. Pam reported the school's spending/expenses are tracking well to the budget targets. We will need to revised our budget to move some items into the correct categorites to account for covid-related spending and changes in special education paras. Our budget has been approved by our authorizer.

Personnel Committee will meet Thursday, March 4 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss mask wearing policies/follow through

Motion to adjourn at 5:11 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

Thursday, February 25, 2021

5:12 P.M.

PRESENT: Karin Schmidt, Frank Zobitz, Marit Kringstad, Jodi Summit, Paula Herbranson, Michelle Lubinski.

Motion to approve agenda by Marit, second by Karin- all yes

Director's report : Frank gave a brief overview of the challenges and successes from the past year. He credited the teachers and staff for adapting to the challenge. He noted the school has enhanced our Environmental Education focus, and the school is making good use of the new digital piano lab and computer lab. He also noted the school has been successful in getting grants to help us operate in this covid-19 environment.

Election

Michelle Lubinski- parent board member- 3 years

Paula Herbranson- teacher board member- 3 years

Both elected by a 6-0 margin.

Motion to adjourn- 5:22 p.m.