

August 26, 2021
Vermilion Country School
Regular Board Meeting
4 p.m.

Present: Paula Herbranson, Sue Beaton, Karin Schmidt, Jodi Summit, Marit Kringstad
Absent: Michelle Lubinski
Also present: Jolene Herberg, Amy Hendrickson, Frank Zobitz, Pam Zahn (via telephone)

Additions to the agenda
Interim director update on update of school planning
Tiered course week for e-learning
Staff compensation for overload hours
Draft for SPP revisions
Operations Committee- to forward to TEDA

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

Motion to approve minutes from July 22 and Aug. 16 by Karin, second by Paula- all yes

Financials
Motion to approve deposits of \$46,075.61
Expenses posted to SmartFinance- \$44,752.88

Discussed this year's budget planning, cash flow, and importance of having accurate student count with Pam Zahn. The school should have sufficient cash reserves if our revenue is lower than expected, and budgeting this year was for a low student count estimate.

Motion to accept the July financials by Paula, second by Karin- all yes

Motion to appoint Paula Herbranson as our IoWA for MDE until we transition to a new director by Karin, second by Marit- all yes

Masking and Quarantining Recommendations
Masks are still required on school transportation
At this point, MDE is leaving the decision on masks in school up to the district
Last year it was a state mandate, but now no emergency powers to force a mandate

Statement for students and families:

Masks are strongly recommended in the school building, but not required. Masks will be mandated on school field trips in places that masks are required. Masks are required on school transportation. This statement is subject to change based on state guidelines.

Masks will be provided for all students and available on school transportation. Hand sanitizing stations are available and use is encouraged.

Quarantining- If a student or staff is experiencing symptoms, they should be kept home from school, and it is strongly recommended they get tested. Students who are experiencing possible COVID symptoms at school will be sent home.

Distance Learning

VCS was approved for any of the three Tier Options, approving is through entire school year

Paula—Gave update on staff inservice week one:

First week of school schedule including MAP testing

Went through employee manual- will have Edvisions update as needed

AI has gotten the new chromebooks running

Developed a class schedule

Updated the SPP to meet our current program

Still need to update the student handbook

Teaching staff will be filling in for the open .5 social studies and .5 special education positions. This leaves no prep periods for the teachers. This necessitates a blended learning option to give the teachers time for class prep and staff meetings on Mondays.

Motion to approve the Blended Learning Option by Marit, second by Sue- all yes

Sue Beaton has to leave at 5:45pm

Discussion with Amy Hendrickson about possible options for eight high-risk students she has been working with. Our school is unable to offer a full-time online option with Amy working as a tutor because of liability/insurance issues (students being transported in non-school vehicle and working in off-site classrooms). Also concerned about being able to offer special education services. VCS would like to see these students formally enrolled and attending classes on site as much as possible, and would consider hiring Amy as a para to work with these students.

Motion to approve teacher overload pay while school is down 1.0 FTE staff, adding .33 FTE equivalent overload pay to each of the three licensed teachers. This would remain in effect through the school year unless more licensed staff is hired to fill the openings.

Motion to approve a monthly stipend for Paula, Karin, and Jolene for overseeing administrative duties until the time a new administrator is in place. Stipend would be based on .5 FTE of Step 2 in the admin pay scale, and would be divided between the three based on duty overload, motion by Marit, second by Jodi- all yes

Motion for board personnel committee to revisit office manager description, duties, and pay, along with administrator job duties and come back to the board by the October meeting by Marit, second by Jodi- all yes

Motion to extend Frank Zobitz's end date to Sept. 30 by Paula, second by Karin- all yes
Frank will complete a list of duties that he has started and need to be completed, including, but not limited to: Check and connect paperwork and contract with SLC; E-rate released some money- we put in for 15k, computers, hot spots for home use- application is in, need to get them ordered and distributed and do paperwork; AI and Frank will get chromebooks ready next week; Annual Report- board needs to approve in September, Frank can help; Tall ships field trip paperwork; online school permission paperwork; Innovative program permission- working with Karin but we need to keep it on track; Sign permits for main street/fire hall and 135; 3 year grant for bullying program- Stop It; Wrap up loose ends from last year on Title 4; contacting Edvisions to make salary revisions approved by the board.

Osprey Wild site visit on Sept. 23, may attend board meeting

No board training this month

Operations Committee- Need a fence around the propane tank, Jodi will request TEDA complete this

Motion to adjourn at 6:51 pm