

Vermilion Country School Board
October 22, 2020
Regular Board Meeting
4 p.m.

Members present: Jodi Summit, Karin Schmidt, Paula Herbranson, Dick Larmouth (via telephone), Marit Kringstad
Also present: Frank Zobitz, Pam Zahn (business manager)

Add item 7.2 annual report

Motion to approve the agenda by Marit, second Karin- all yes
Motion to approve Oct 1, 2020 special meeting by Karin, second by Paula- all yes
September meeting held Oct 1 due to lack of quorum on Sept 24

Financial overview

The board reviewed recent cash flow issues with business manager Pam Zahn. She explained the difficulties are due to a series of issues: covid expenses which have not been reimbursed, food service spending which hasn't been reimbursed, and reduced MDE payment due to lower student counts. Pam will be investigating options for a line of credit from both a private lender and MDE. Pam will keep a better track on mid-month bank balances. The board finance committee will meet on Oct. 29 at 4 p.m. to review the budget and see where spending can be decreased to match projected revenues.

Motion to have Pam reach out to MDE on financing possibilities by Karin, second by Paula- all yes

Notice of Concern from Osprey Wilds

Formal notice of Probationary Status

Plan for addressing concerns:

Safe learning plan wasn't posted on the website and sent to OW- now completed
Epicenter- all but 4 items are completed (and will get to those soon). We had done everything just not uploaded it. Paula noted they had trouble uploading things last year and would get errors. Site is now updated and Frank said everything uploaded has been accepted.
Frank- one thing we need to do is work on annual report- board needs to approve it.
Special meeting on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 3:45 p.m. to approve annual report.

Need to keep in better contact with Erin at OW.

Budget- been submitted

Website- Frank is working on updating website

The board will add a monthly item to board agenda on epicenter and website- to review that updates have been done and review any upcoming requirements.

Motion that the board has reviewed the notice from OW and the school is on track to complete all items as required. Motion by Paula, second by Karin- all yes

Financials for September

Revenue of \$42,838.85

Expenses of \$576,581.73

Difference of \$16,739.86

Motion to approve September financials by Dick, second by Marit- all yes

Pam will check with auditor to see if board member needs to continue self-audit (had stopped coming into the office due to covid concerns)

School updates

Covid at VCS- Frank is working with MDH school liaison. Her goal is to help us decide what learning mode we should be in based on state/county/city data. She said we had handled it correctly. The concerning thing is we still haven't been notified by MDH and the staffer had been interviewed by MDH. Case rates are rising in SLC (they are telling the school it's getting pretty bad). No additional cases reported after one staffer tested positive

Karin reported that students are grateful to be back at school, for so many distance learning does not work, when they are here, we can reach them

Received a donation from Tower Fire Relief Fund- \$2,300 to locker fund

We've received \$2,900, but have \$3,900 committed (buys 9 lockers), haven't spent it yet.

Our target is 25k

Senior meals going well

End of first quarter this week

Discussion about covid testing-

School can't require testing for students who are exposed

Discussed at what point the school would decide to switch to distance learning.

Frank is designated covid coordinator- said he makes decision based on factors discussed by the team, staff want to have kids here, but not if they feel it isn't safe to have them here. Frank would make recommendation to the teaching team to make final decision. Only time we have to make immediate decision is if we have an active case in the building.

Accountability for staff regarding safety measures- ie mask-wearing, would follow staff handbook guidelines for violating safety rules.

Motion to adjourn by Karin at 5:15 p.m. all yes