



MINUTES
VSWEA Board of Directors Regular Meeting
6210 S. 28th St. Phoenix, AZ 85042
Eurythmy Room
Wednesday, October 19, 2022
VIA [Zoom](#)

Members Present:

Kerstin Kubina (KK)—President
April Sauer (AS)—Secretary
John Tanner (JT)

Danielle Martinez (DM)
Ben Fong (BF)
Myriah Mhoun (MM)
Nellie Grossenbacher (NG)

Members Absent: Scott Edwards and Dan Franks

The President and Secretary were present, and a quorum was reached.

Guests

Invitees of the Board:
Frank Mirizio (FM)
Michelle Kratzer (MK)

Members of the public present via Zoom/Registration through Google Forms:

H
Tammy Lopez
Ashley Parks
Bradley Young
Deb

Sophie & Mike McCurley
MD
Kelsey Orosz and William Dyer
Barb Cunningham
Morgan

Opening Verse/Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm. KK welcomed the public to the meeting, read the opening verse, and reviewed the agenda.

The Board members introduced themselves as well as FM and MK.

Executive Director Update

FM We are back from fall break, and we're heading into the holidays and winter break. I'm proud and pleased to say things are going well. On the attendance front, we only have about 2 kids who are struggling with attendance. This is really good news. Construction is going slow. The woodshop is slowing as we have been switched to another person from the city for sign off. The bathrooms are making progress even though it's slow. We're uncovering issues as we go, but we're taking care of them. The roof should be completed tomorrow, then exterior dry wall, then electrical and plumbing. We're moving forward. I'm hoping in three weeks it will be done. Next week, we'll be starting on an outdoor stage. We'll have lighting, a gravel ground where we can set up chairs. We're hoping to have that done before Thanksgiving as there are some

performances coming up. We're also working on the parking lot area to make it prettier and to encourage drivers to stay in appropriate lanes. We're holding steady at 290. We budgeted at 300. We should be at 294 soon, but I'm hoping to get to 300 before the 100th day. We're fully staffed apart from some part time positions. Budget looks good.

KK What about the security position?

FM It's been three weeks with no applications. Luis Camacho is a part time second grade aide. We hired a full time second grade aide, which gives him time to teach his classes and work as security during the other hours. He knows the staff and kids, which is great. There are a lot of positives. The only negative is it's not full time. He'll start on Monday as our safety monitor, so it's working out well.

AS Do we have numbers for the 40th day?

FM I think we had about 6 kids out that day.

NG What did we start at for enrollment?

FM 300. Next week on Wednesday we'll add four more kids.

NG Are there any concerns regarding exit interviews we need to discuss?

FM No, there aren't any at this time.

NG and FM discussed the adult restrooms, future recruitment for the middle school to attend the high school, and enrollment efforts.

DM, NG, and FM discussed the upcoming bbq for staff and students as well as other bbq's for recruitment.

NG, FM, and KK discussed website and email issues along with the new IT position.

Parent Council/Animal Care Update

MK I can do a brief update—the BBQ information went out today asking for donations for food. We're doing burgers, vegan options, fruit salad, and hummus with veggie sticks. If we have leftover fruit salad, we'll take that over to EC. We had our first Winter Market meeting this morning. There will be a vendor sign up. All of the classes will have an opportunity to have their own booth, free of charge, to use as a fundraiser. We will request information regarding the fundraiser activity so we don't have any duplicates. We'll also have the angel room and bake shop along with Middle Eastern Bakery.

MK Animal Care is working with 3rd grade to learn how to feed the animals.

KK Great. Any other questions?

JT You mentioned the Angel Room. What's the other one?

MK A bake shop.

JT Are you looking for a curriculum room?

MK Yes, we'll chat with Dr. Darian and the LDC to have that at the Winter Market.

FM Okay, I'll bring that up at the LDC meeting.

BF We got an email regarding the sustaining fund kick off, which is the same week as the bbq. Is there some work around for the future to make sure we're not overlapping?

FM I don't see how a lunchtime affects anything that's happening with parents.

BF The concern is about asks. The hope is that the sustaining fund reserves certain times to be the sole ask.

DM, FM, KK, AS, and BF discussed the issue further.

Financial Update

KK Shared her screen to show the Forecast to Budget. We are in the negative for September as we've had some extra expenses, but it's nothing to be concerned about.

FM The issue is simply that we're paying for projects from our regular budget, but that will be replenished from the ESSR money as it comes in.

KK When do we expect those grants?

FM Generally around December.

KK Shared Collapsed P&L. We're in the positive there. We added a couple of positions this year, but we're well within budget to accommodate for those people. Shared screen to show Balance Sheet. Shows assets—checking and savings, money due from federal and state. Total liabilities and equity at 3 million.

Proposed Motions

KK moved to approve the 9/21/22 meeting minutes. AS second. No further discussion. Unanimous votes in favor: KK, AS, JT, DM, MM, BF, NG. **Motion passes.**

Continuing Business/Open Issues

Development Update

KK Any updates?

FM I'm happy that I was able to give Sophie a lead and secured our first donor for \$10,100. She did a great job sitting with them and making this happen. I can't ask for a better start. That's outstanding.

AS We're speechless. That's an amazing start.

JT Where does that money go?

DM Any stipulations with that gift?

FM No, sustaining funds has a separate line item in the budget. We'll watch this running total. I'd like to update everyone at each meeting. We are looking for 100% participation from families. Deb Pawlo is looking into a banner we can use to visualize that. We track every donation that comes in. Jessica and Monique are doing a great job setting that up for us.

NG It's good to see Sophie is back in the loop. I'd like to see her invited to our meetings to give us updates. I want to make sure that we're lining these events up on the calendar so there are not too many asks. I think spreading them out is fair. The sustaining fund needs to be a focus. We want to build a facility, so we need to focus on making these calendar items work.

DM, AS, NG, KK, BF, MM, and FM discuss calendar issues and conflicts regarding asks.

In Person Board Meetings

KK What is everyone's thoughts on in person meetings?

MM I see quite a few attendees on Zoom. I think this mix is difficult.

DM Seeing how much we are suffering, I think maybe we could do a stream like youtube watch. There's something about showing up and being on campus that means a lot to me.

NG I was a proponent of being in person, and I like being here, but I wanted to do this because there was a call to be on site, but no one is showing up.

DM, NG, KK, AS, BF, MM, and JT discuss issues regarding meeting in person vs Zoom.

NG moved that we go back to Zoom meetings. AS second. No further discussion. Votes in favor: AS, NG, MM, BF. Against: JT, KK, DM. **Motion passes.**

ED Evaluation

KK The Executive Director Evaluation form is out via ParentSquare. It is for staff, faculty, and the board.

NG How many ParentSquare posts have gone out to the board? I'm not getting ParentSquare anymore.

AS Maybe two. Not a lot.

DM and KK discuss anonymity of the form.

Substance Program

KK One of our community members sent us some information regarding some possible programs.

FM Substance abuse program—we have a counselor who has the highest certification to do this for us, and it wouldn't cost us anything. She'd do a program with the students and the parents. She's an expert in this field. She's putting together the program and then she'll get it to me.

DM Is this one on one or assemblies?

FM Right now it would be a junior high program and a high school program. We may split the high school into 9/10 and 11/12. It's a workshop program for the students.

DM I spoke with three organizations. There's a free program—they do assemblies, a program, projects. There's a Waldorf based program Focus on the Human Being. They work with the students/staff. It's run by Waldorf alumni. They work out of NJ. They'd do a site visit first to figure out their proposal. The third is the Be Kind Project. They do assemblies, after school programs, they have a cyber civics course. They also do character education as well.

FM Please send that to me.

DM I'll circulate that.

JT Thank you for your efforts in that direction.

New Business

Phone Bank

BF I want to propose a board phone bank to help with the sustaining fund. I'd like to meet next Wednesday at 6:30pm. This is the week where we're kicking it off. We'd hear a bit from Sophie about the sustaining fund, we'll get a script, and a list from Deb so we can break the list apart for the board. We'll educate ourselves, our parents, and encourage sustaining fund donations. We could make calls for 45 minutes. If you're not available, you could come for the first 15 minutes to learn about the program and then make your calls when you're available. On every board I've been on, fundraising has been the thing. We've already had a good start, and I want it to continue.

DM I'm excited. That sounds great.

KK Was that a motion? If so, we'll need to make that an official meeting with an agenda.

BF moved to call a special meeting for Wednesday 10/26 at 6:30pm for the sole purpose of phone banking for the sustaining fund. JT second. The following discussion took place:

DM I'm not available, but can I still get a list to call?

NG Are we accepting money on these calls?

FM We direct them to the site.

JT No one answers their phones anymore. Do we need to text?

KK That's a great point. Should we do a phone/text effort?

NG I think it would be helpful to follow up with a text with the link.

DM Can we send out a school text? Do we have an option to separate numbers?

FM No, it's a mass text.

MM Could we do a mass text to announce it?

BF I think that's great to announce it in the morning. Part of the goal is to make connections. There's an activist core group of parents, and we want to involve more people. I might not pick up every call, but if I got a voicemail, I'd probably call them back.

Unanimous votes in favor: AS, KK, DM, JT, NG, BF, MM. **Motion passes.**

BF I will continue to work on this with Deb and Sophie to be prepared for the meeting.

FM, BF, KK, AS, DM discuss having the public meeting via Zoom and the agenda.

11/2 Board Meeting

DM I'd like to propose changing the date for our 11/2 board meeting due to the Phone Bank meeting as well as a dia de los muertos event.

KK 11/2 meeting is to interview our board applicant, and we need to do that before our 11/16 meeting.

DM Could that be a part of the same meeting?

MM DM took my comment.

AS If we change the applicant interview, the motion needs to reflect that it's based on the applicant's availability.

DM moved to move the 11/2 to 5pm. KK second.

DM I retract my motion.

DM moved to move the 11/2 interview to an earlier start time at 5pm via Zoom contingent our applicant is available. KK second. The following discussion took place:

MM I don't feel like we need a motion for this. I think we need to be more thoughtful.

Votes in favor: KK, AS, JT, NG, DM, BF. Opposed: MM. **Motion passes.**

AS Reminder for President's meeting with board applicant. Perhaps KK can speak with the applicant regarding the updated time as well when arranging that meeting.

Announcements

KK 11/2 is our special board meeting for applicant interviews at 6:30pm on Zoom. 11/16 is our regular board meeting at 6:30pm on Zoom due to our motion tonight.

KK moved to adjourn the 10/19/22 board meeting. DM second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, JT, DM, MM, BF, NG. **Motion passes.**

Closing Verse

JT read the closing verse.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

Prepared by AS on 10.19.2022.