

Governance Council Minutes
Verona Area International School
VAIS-LMC
Monday,
February 13, 2023

Attendance

James Kokalj, Sally Parks, Grace Flores, Kelly Gibson, Brandon Braithwaite, Patty Immanuella, Steve Kean, Evan Henderson

Virtually: Joanne Mueller, Sarah Shaw, Darlene Berkowitz

Also attending: Katie Bhandare

Absent: Teresa Mueller, Yingying Reiter Charles James

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Approval of January minutes. Brandon moved to approve the minutes, Kelly seconded. Motion carries- minutes are approved.

Director's Report

Sally would like to thank everyone for the recruitment and outreach efforts. They are going very well. The Chinese mini school was a success- thanks to everyone who helped out to make it a great recruitment event.

The Chinese New Year at the library was a huge success, and Sally was able to communicate with several potential new families.

Staffing recruitment and retention updates

- Yingying is taking a leave of absence. We do not yet have a return date. Families will be updated as soon as Sally has a date.
- Mr. Joe will fill in as a long term substitute for Yingying. He doesn't speak Mandarin, but he did teach English in an immersion school in China. He and Yumeng are working together to make sure the % students get some Mandarin learning.
- Yumeng is also helping them learn some independent ways that they can continue to work on their Chinese with independent learning.
- Other ways they are working on getting more Mandarin to the students:
 - HR is working on getting a short-term substitute who could facilitate some Chinese learning.
 - Teresa is working on finding volunteers within the community who can come in and read to students, or work with them on their Mandarin.

We have an offer for a school psychologist two days per week. There is a school psych from another school in the district who is helping out as well, and will continue to do this, and this should give us full coverage.

Ms. Shawl has a social work intern who is coming in three days per week until early May, and will be assisting the student support team.

We are hiring an EA.

We have a new school nurse starting Monday.

Sarah Greenlaw, our special education teacher, moved on to work for the teacher's union. She left approximately two weeks ago. We currently have a special education assistant stepping in to work with the students who have IEPs and special education needs. A new special education teacher will be starting on March 2nd.

Professional development

- Sally has been working on refocusing Mandarin learning, to create a more unified and consistent teaching model. Rosa Maria Larson, the director of World Languages, has been meeting with the staff once a month.
 - Jennifer Digmann and Yumeng Wang and Sally will be attending a seminar this spring on bilingual learning. The goal is to create a learning plan that is specific to our school, based on our data.
- Teachers are reviewing the data from the state testing and developing plans for students based on scoring

We may need to rethink the boys and girls club outreach event. The attendance was extremely low, with no parties from the target audience, and no one interested in VAIS.

Lottery numbers- currently at 19 applicants.

Charter and bylaw review

- GC continued its monthly review of the charter and bylaws to discuss and understand the terms of these documents.

Budget committee

- James Kokalj nominated Evan to take over as treasurer for the remainder of this school year. Darlene seconded. Motion carries and Evan and Darlene will start the transition.
- We discussed changing the signatories on the AWE account. We would like to keep it at three individuals- the president, VP, and treasurer.

Fundraising committee

- We are currently at 56% of our fundraising goal.
- There are several events coming up- such as the euchre night, which is a bigger event.
- Meta request- they need information from us to verify us as a valid 501c(3)- Joanne will reach out to them to verify that this is legitimate before we take any action.
- Euchre night will be on March 10th.

Budget

- No updates

Outreach

- The library event had over 500 people
- The mini school event had 15 new students attend
- The committee will be meeting on the 20th

School Climate

- No updates.

Parent engagement

- Meals are needed for PT conferences for Wednesday. We could use some more parent volunteers.
- We also need more parent volunteers for the friendship party on Thursday. We will put a new post on facebook.

Other business

- None

Sarah motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:31.