

Governance Council Minutes
Verona Area International School
VAIS-LMC
Monday, January 9, 2023

Attendance

James Kokalj, Sally Parks, Grace Flores, Charles James, Steve Kean, Sarah Shaw, Evan Henderson

Virtually: Kelly Gibson, Charles James, Joanne Mueller

Also attending:

Absent: Teresa Mueller, Yingying Reiter, Brandon Braithwaite, Patty Immanuella

Meeting called to order at 6:39 p.m.

Approval of December minutes. Steve moved to approve the minutes, Evan seconded. Motion carries- minutes are approved.

Director's Report

Confucius classroom grant- there is a new budget out for 2023. They are receptive to us tweaking the budget, and we were able to shift the budget to some of the Chinese curricular materials.

The goal is to stay on top of the grant and make sure the resources are being spent throughout the year, as we're able. We do need a volunteer to do some archival work and take photos of events.

Staffing- we are looking for a school psychologist. The school psych from Core is coming over and working with the staff to assist as needed. We still need an E.A.

A long-term sub has been hired for K/1 during Lumei's maternity leave. She is in the practicum program at Edgewood, and has spent time here with us in the past. She has worked at a preschool in the past as well.

- This will be communicated to the K/1 parents once details are finalized.

Staffing recruitment and retention updates

- Sally has been working with district HR related to retention and recruitment of teachers. Richelle Hady has been very supportive of our need to have good connections and good options to recruit and retain native Mandarin teachers.
- Sally is also working on making connections to find short-term substitute teachers that could result in future connections.
- She has been working with the University to establish connections, as well as UW-Whitewater.
- She also has been working on developing connections with community organizations.
- Retention- new teachers go through a mentorship and induction program, and Sally would like to start considering what that looks like at VAIS, and what changes are needed that might be different from the normal district program.

- Working on affinity spaces to allow staff members to be together to express themselves and share experiences about their shared backgrounds.
- Milwaukee Academy of Chinese language- looks like a new MPS school with some Chinese language component. We have reached out to see if there is any opportunity to connect with them.

Cafeteria volunteers- we have four volunteers coming. If anyone is interested, please contact Sally for more information.

Outreach- K info night is this Thursday. We also have a tour, Chinese New Year, chinese mini school, and the boys and girls club events coming up.

- We need volunteers for the boys and girls club event.
- There are volunteers still needed for the Chinese new year event.

Budget committee

- Sally update: Adrian Kiser from VASD is working with Sally Parks in software, Skyward, to better streamline functionality in the different budgets
- James: Next year's budget should be written so that it meshes line by line with the accounting software. This will be a one year transition for 2023-2024, but after that, will serve as a template for future budgets.

Fundraising committee

- Culver's night is coming up- January 25th.
- They looked into Bingo night, but getting a license is very difficult.
- Euchre night will be back-likely the week or two before spring break.
- They are waiting on a few numbers from December fundraisers before reporting, but we are close to 50% of our annual goal. There will be a silent auction associated with either Euchre night or the end of year picnic.

Budget

- No updates

Outreach

- The committee met last night- everything is going well.
- Materials were dropped off at 3k and 4k sites.
- Lunar New Year display went up at the library. Thanks to Christy Grace and other volunteers for the great work.
- Yard sign campaign is up and running.

School Climate

- No updates.

Parent engagement

- No update: Less activities in January in order to help with recruitment

Other business

- None

Sarah motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:33.