

**Syringa Mountain School**  
**Board Meeting Minutes – 3/19/2025**

**Approved**

School Staff:

Christi Thompson-Director - Present  
Kristin Funk- Virtual  
Shawn Myers - Present

Board Members:

Sarah Seppa- Present  
Chris Alexander- Present  
Jennifer Barrett-Neet- Not Present  
Nora Roebuck- Present  
Brian VanderWyst - Present

Public attendance:

Teal Duncan  
Michele Harris

5:38 pm Time Quorum is present

- I. Opening Circle
- II. Any Additions, Corrections, Modifications or Substitutions to the Current Agenda
- III. Public comment
  - A. Letter from parent. Highlighting the want to keep the calendar same as other schools.
- IV. Consent agenda
  1. All items listed are Action Items and the Board may approve all of the following items by a single motion or vote unless any member of the Board asks that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for consideration under New Business. If an item is removed from consideration under the Consent Agenda and moved into New Business such items shall remain an Action Item for consideration of Board Approval.
    - a) [Board Meeting Minutes: 2/19/25](#)
    - b) [Approve Financials:](#)
    - c) [School Closure Approval:](#)
      - (1) Chris Alexander made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Nora Robuck seconded. All in favor, motion approved.
- V. Old Business
  - A. 2025-26 School Calendar:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hzZDICpEZHGabMImgC3wCnA2AP4OhFaJz2BvkdHtNqk/edit?tab=t.0>
    1. Letter from parent above.
    2. 15 people replied to the calendar feedback.
      - a) Took strong consideration of this feedback & letter
      - b) Tried to line up with other schools
        - (1) Sage School doesn't have their school calendar out yet.
      - c) Hence, will be sending the Syringa calendar out to other schools in hopes they coordinate with Syringa.
    3. Two days still need to be finalized - Harvest Festival, Spring music concert and eventually Mayfair.
  - B. Strategic Planning
    1. Board Goals:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qjtdWDpPFK854341li2yFbO9ZTa0xYSpCB2PoyXwCIQ/edit?tab=t.0>

2. Recruit Board Members
    - a) Engagement –
      - (1) Chris started attending Bellevue P&Z meetings.
        - (a) Helps to maintain community outreach
      - (2) Nora - meeting with many at the store as outreach.
        - (a) Didn't know where Syringa was located.
        - (b) Thought it was an alternative school
        - (c) Asked a lot about K and Pre-K
        - (d) Many thought we were private.
- C. Parent Council Update
1. Working on organizing a food drive.
    - a) Use for children that may need extra lunch
    - b) Extra food during ISATs.
    - c) Working on flyers
  2. Looking at crossing guards
  3. Reached out to the city and had them put up School Signage.
  4. Big turnout for the open house - not enough food. Next year we will get more pizza.
  5. See meeting minutes:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kwt82lx9mZ90DMmkX5PtfvwJsJtdFffEuKJ3cJuf9k/edit?tab=t.0>
- D. Financial Update: <https://syringamountainschool.org/wp-content/uploads/Mar25-Brd-Packet.pdf>
1. Raffle will be the next charitable event
    - a) There was great effort at the launch of the event.
    - b) On a good trajectory. Should hit the \$35k goal.
  2. Legislature - watching for April decisions on school voucher
- E. Teacher update
1. Spring Fever!
  2. Teacher update:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VNilD0PhF2W7QAVICb-meA3XACTUPV4uH00KhfY02jA/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.qlufij9then9>
- F. Development Committee Update See meeting Minutes:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q-roVVOo9KLk97VTdd-9MuujO7u8RKZJG\\_miNWFriO4/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q-roVVOo9KLk97VTdd-9MuujO7u8RKZJG_miNWFriO4/edit?tab=t.0)
1. Use the Board Assessment Matrix to find new board members.
  2. May use it with current board members to see where our gaps are.
  3. In July, will aggressively use this to find new board members.
  4. Raffle had a successful engagement in early March. Plan to re-engage the student body after Spring Break to keep up momentum. Optimism we will meet or surpass our \$35K goal.
  5. March 21 is a Rotarun sponsored event. Should break even financially.
    - a) Break even is great as we will get out into the community.
  6. Teal Duncan taking ownership over 'Garage Sale' at Trailhead Bicycle street party.
- G. Outdoor Education Upgrades Updates
1. Vans
    - a) We have two new Vans!
      - (1) Slight retrofitting to be done.
    - b) Want to maintain a fleet of four.
      - (1) Will reevaluate additional vans later in the year.
    - c) Collective desire to purchase a replacement van. Will first determine State Funding, Christi's 25-26 Staffing Proposal, and financial reserve before taking action on van.
- H. Mental Health
1. The BSU survey is almost complete.
  2. Syringa has implemented the services of a counselor intern.

I. Director update:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/14xqFmTpshImMgr112riUs-FN3f0\\_1zH2pFuS6cSOxi8/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14xqFmTpshImMgr112riUs-FN3f0_1zH2pFuS6cSOxi8/edit?tab=t.0)

1. Most all grades are full with lottery in place or pulled.
2. 137 students fully committed. Could increase to 142.
3. Need more space.

VI. Nora Roebuck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm, and Brian VanderWyst seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

VII. Next Board Meeting Date: April 16th, 2025

A. Things to address next board meeting

1. Action items: