

Syringa Mountain School
Board Meeting Minutes – 9/28/2022
APPROVED 10/19/2022

School Staff:

Christi Thompson-Director
Shawn Meyers-Teacher Liaison
Kristin Funk
Bette Reed
Michele Harris

Board Members:

Mike Allaire
Sandi Viau
Jennifer Barrett-Neet
John Casey
Sarah Seppa

Public attendance:

Carter Cox

5:30pm Time Quorum is present

- Public comment:
 - A. Carter Cox- Comment about the separation of church and state
 - 1. Detriment of history to remove history of religion
 - 2. Would like to know what channels the agenda item went through to get on the agenda
- Consent agenda
 - A. Approval of 8/17/22 Board Meeting- Sarah Seppa made a motion to approve, Jennifer Barrett-Neet seconded the motion- All in favor, Minutes approved
- Old Business
 - A. Financial Update
 - 1. Meeting minutes were emailed
 - a) Paid off the bus
 - B. Teacher Update
 - 1. Teachers preparing for harvest fest and luncheon
 - 2. Staff are out sick and other issues but staff are working together to help support each other
 - 3. Teachers wanted clarification for the covid sick day policy
 - 4. Comments about the separation of church and state
 - C. Parent Council update
 - 1. First meeting was on 9.12, next meeting is 10.7
 - 2. Will meet first friday of the month after drop off in the music room
 - 3. PC has taken over finding volunteers for the festivals
 - 4. Looking for the policies for volunteers
 - 5. Might start looking for highschooler who need volunteer hours and the senior center
 - 6. Fundraising
 - a) How often does the board want updates
 - (1) Couple months in advance
 - 7. Will be working on the PC bylaws and positions
 - D. Staffing updates
 - 1. Jen Rivers is the new Spanish teacher
 - 2. Struggling to find substitute teachers
 - a) Same rate as bcsd
 - 3. Has not filled the assistant positions, still looking
 - E. ISBA training- confirm dates (pick 2) or request later ones
 - 1. November 2
 - 2. November 30
 - 3. December 7
 - a) The board chose 11.2 and 12.7. These will happen in the evening

b) Thank you Christi for letting the board commission know

F. St. Luke's Grant- Laurie training

1. Grant is 1 time a year
2. It is due on Friday
3. Specific to mental health, food insecurity and housing
 - a) We chose the CRM training through Laurie
 - b) Board not able to write the grant with the time left
4. Tabled until we have more planning and time

G. Board fingerprint update

1. None have gone through yet
2. By mid October
 - a) To send them all together at the same time

H. Illness Closure Update Rules:

1. Teacher comment
 - a) Read a letter from a teacher
 - (1) Would like the sick days/covid days policy that was in place the last 2 years
 - (2) Re-institute mask policy
 - b) Comment to Shawn regarding covid vaccines and booster
 - (1) Feeling that all are at risk no matter the vaccine status
 - c) Amendment suggestion
 - (1) Only this year, if a teacher uses all their 9 sick days, we will cover sick days after the 9 for this year.
 - d) Christi will keep track of the sick days and collect data from Nigel and Bette to determine what this may cost the school
 - e) Could use ESSR funds
 - f) We could pull the mandate and not cover sick days
 - g) The board will begin drafting a document to remove the covid stay home requirements and drafting wording for the covid sick days that the school will fund.
 - h) The board will have a draft by the 7th.

● New Business

A. Audit Presentation - Quest CPAs PLLC

1. Covid funding will be with us till at least 2024
2. Review of the financial
3. No findings this year that we as a board needs to review
4. Page 9 Summary of how we performed this year
 - a) We have enrollment concerns but still ok
 - b) We did not spend our ESSR 3 dollars
 - c) Goal is to work towards a break even budget
5. Sandi Viau made a motion to approve the audit, John Casey seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried

B. Action Item: Approve monthly payables

1. Approving payments and limit to get out sooner
 - a) Will be on next month's agenda
2. Monthly Payables
 - a) John Casey made a motion to approve the monthly payables Sarah Seppa seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried

C. Spending in building & process

1. Wanting clarity on spending if the budget has been allocated
2. If it is in the budget Christi and the school has the ability to use that money

D. Upcoming trainings/expenses for Charter Admin meetings

1. Data drill down -Twin - Sept. 27th
2. Superintendent Region IV Meeting- Sept. 28th
3. Principal. Network Meeting - Boise - Oct. 13-14th
4. SuperInd. Network Meeting - Boise - Oct. 20-21st
5. Upcoming trainings/expenses for Charter Admin meetings

E. Separation of church and state and how the board is used when questions arise

1. Waldorf curriculum vs. legality with a public school?
 - a) How did it get on the agenda?

2. Teacher input
 - a) Teachers teach history not religion
 - b) Teacher encourages kids to think critically
 3. What is the process for questions
 - a) First address with the teachers, then address with Christi, then brought to the board. It is in the handbook
 - b) The school has followed live-ed and that is the resource online.
- F. Board Policies 5000
1. Review Code of Ethics for School Board Members
 - a) The staff needs to sign the sexual harrassment/intimidation policy
- G. Superintendent Region IV update
1. Funding may be coming from the state, but won't know till probably January
 - a) Christi will keep us informed
 2. Funding formula will come up this year
 - a) Region 4 wanted to see the money follow the schools not kids
 - b) Would not like to compete for money with other schools or district
- H. Hiring deep cleaner 8 hours a week
1. Action item: SIPAS WAYTA Cleaning Services
 - a) Current cleaner is only able to come 15 hours a week
 - b) \$960 a month.
 - c) Sarah Seppa makes a motion to approve hiring a cleaner at \$30 an hour, John Casey seconded the motion, all in favor, motion approved
- Executive time - not needed
 - Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm