

## 2024-10-14 VICS Governing Board Meeting

Present: all board members and principal

6:37 PM                    Call to order  
6:38 PM                    Executive Session  
7:16 PM                    General Session resumes  
7:18 PM                    Public Comment

Kassy Selby: Question about technology, where are we at, is PTC still able to split tech and funding?

Terry: Will not have final number on cost until next month. Probably \$3-4k range, not certain until finishing consulting with an expert.

Cammi: Approved computer, camera microphone and Zoom; Zoom subscription has been purchased and is active.

7:22 PM                    Principal's report

Lacey:

- Recent happenings:
  - Open House: Had great turnout. Every classroom accomplished an art piece that has to do with the country on their trading cards.
  - Reading buddies: Starting 10/23/24, pairings K/3<sup>rd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>
  - Inquiry Clubs: In planning.
  - After School Clubs: Several teachers planning a variety of clubs possibly including chess, dance robotics, crocheting, macrame, etc.
  - Library/STEAM: Small staffing schedule changes to allow Ms. McNay to teach STEAM lessons.
  - Subbing: Working with SKSD, organized partnership with WESD to use their sub pool and reporting system starting 11/1/24. May look into building our own sub pool in the future, but this gives a good option for us to utilize. Have not signed a contract yet.
  - Inservice on 10/11/24: Reviewed norms; shared governance; dug into Lucy Calkins reading/writing curriculum and iReady math curriculum; did overview of SeeSaw platform; analyzed reading/math diagnostic data for small group planning; fall conference and report card planning; collaborative co-planning of units of inquiry.
  - Amazing Race event kicks off 11/1/2024, fundraising info coming out Wednesday 10/16/24.
  - Had a field trip for younger grades to EZ Orchards, will have another for older grades.

- Meyer Memorial Trust: Grant application submitted before deadline, no response expected for a few months.
- IB Update:
  - IB attribute of the month for September was “caring,” celebrated award winners during assembly. Next focus will be on “communicating.”
  - Focus for program of inquiry is “how we express ourselves” which will have different concepts explored at different grade levels.
- Staffing Update:
  - Louis Menjivar joined as Spanish teacher
  - Alice Somerville helping in library
- Enrollment:
  - Open K-5, 4/2/5/1/2/5; Ms. Anna is working to fill these spots, honoring 72-hour waiting periods. Some wait lists were exhausted, wanting to put out flyer.
  - No ability to bus is cited frequently as reason to not accept a position, another is a negative article that came out last spring, and lack of daily sports. May want to look at how to address some of these.
  - Steve: Not concerned yet by these numbers, but does affect funding
  - BJ: Listed at 147 of 168, but only showing 19 openings, where is discrepancy?
  - Lacey: 147 is the correct number, will update openings, 6 is correct for kindergarten.
- Treasurer’s Report:
  - Steve: Approved operating budget last month, no significant changes.
  - One hiccup over ESSER grant for difference in expected funding.
  - Do want to keep an eye on enrollment, but not critical currently.
  - Finalized work around audit. Lacey: final pieces submitted.
- ESSER-3 update:
  - Lacey: Had been informed by SKSD that we had around \$95k left of ESSER and \$30k in SIA 23-24 funds, both grants ended 9/30/24, eligible reimbursement requests needed to be submitted ASAP, let board chair and treasurer know about this update, created plan. Put together a plan for reimbursement of costs already incurred during the last school year through eligible employees PERS contributions and other curriculum purchases that had already occurred. Text books purchased but were later found to be not eligible for reimbursement. Need Board advice on how to apply those funds and costs.
  - BJ: Missing something, sounded like it was not eligible for reimbursement but then one option is to use ESSER funds for it?
  - Lacey: This is just unexpected money, looking for how to allocate it.
  - BJ: Prefer if any funding sources are limited in application to spend those first rather than spending any general funds which we can reallocate as needed.
  - Lacey: Some classrooms have a lot of depletion in curriculum, missing teacher guides, etc. Some social studies curricula are likely needed.
  - Terry: Would like money to come out of there and hang on to ESSER-III intact.

- Steve: ESSER harder to allocate, have used curriculum money for things like library books in the past.
- Lacey: Can use funds for whatever after we receive them.
- Ed: Encouraged that books were provided for each classroom, that is important.
- Lacey: Teachers feel empowered by this and are excited.
- BJ: Important for audit trail that reimbursement funds are applied to the items they were requested for.
- Lacey: Will bring finalized numbers next meeting.
- Board recruitment:
  - Steve: Working on availability and connecting with potential board members, found a scheduling method that is dynamic enough to accommodate scheduling changes. Hoping to have interviews wrapped up within the next few weeks and recommendations to bring to the next Governing Board meeting.
- Due diligence:
  - Cammi: Made significant headway with inspection for building and property. Roof, boiler, HVAC, septic inspections giving a good sense of where we are at.
  - Steve: discussing potential to purchase property and building, exploring options and financing, alternatives if we choose not to, considerations with our current lease. Has been an active process for about six months. We are in a fairly stable environment, owned by SKSD, through our charter we are able to use it. If the charter expires and the district decides not to continue allowing us to use it or sell the property, that would potentially terminate our use of the building and we'd be searching for a new location. The way our charter is structured, if we go more than 30 days without a designated location our charter could be terminated and our school would cease. SKSD has had some financial difficulties, and we've discussed as a Board whether a purchase is realistic and optimal. Have learned a lot about the building, the culmination appears that it's within our financial reach to make an offer, but we have to not give away all our cards as we negotiate with the district. Multiple consultants have been involved, does appear to be within reach, may put us on a more stable financial footing than we are on today and ensure our future.
  - Cammi: Should discuss as a board what our long-term goals are, surrounding a middle school. Doesn't make sense to spend on middle school expansion if we aren't going to own the result. Concerned that SKSD's financial position may encourage a sale to someone else.
  - Steve: Some of the upgrades needed may encourage SKSD to sell building rather than continue lease. In a good financial spot to do this, and could finance some maintenance when we expand to middle school. Have not found any red flags.
  - Cammi: Do we need to vote?
  - Terry: No need to vote yet, but can negotiate in executive session.

- Cammi: Would like to talk with SKSD contact early next week, would like to be able to say to them whether we should be on the docket to get other pieces rolling.
- Steve: Probably do need a vote to authorize
- BJ: Motion to authorize board chair and board treasurer to work with financial advisor to come up with best offer number and stipulations, recognizing that we will need to have a formal vote in public session if able to reach a tentative agreement with the district.
- Terry: Second
- 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain
- Steve: Want to keep public involved in decision.
- Cammi: Perhaps should find more ways to get that involvement.

8:33 PM                      Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: Nov 18, 2024 in person at VICS