

Governance Council Minutes
Verona Area International School
VAIS-LMC
Monday, October 10, 2022

Attendance

James Kokalj, Sally Parks, Grace Flores, Teresa Mueller, Kelly Gibson, Brandon Braithwaite, Charles James, Yingying Reiter, Evan Henderson

Virtually: Joanne Mueller, Darlene Berkowitz, Patty Immanuella, Steve Kean

Also attending: Katie Bhandare (virtually), Paige Jany

Absent:

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

Approval of September minutes. Teresa moved to approve the minutes, Charles seconded. Motion carries- minutes are approved.

Director's Report

- Met with SCUN to go over progress so far and Midautumn Festival event
 - Want a meeting near year-end to close out the year with GC reps and more university members
- Yingying provided a summary of how the mid-autumn festival holiday was celebrated at VAIS.
 - They tried mooncakes and were able to watch a musical performance.
 - 4th and 5th grade performed plays about the holiday.
- Both VAIS and NCS had an assembly together for their PBIS achievements. The students had a fun time and there will be more of these assemblies over the course of the year.
- Professional development
 - There has been group learning surrounding the area of disciplinary literacy.
- An in person community gathering will take place this Friday, October 14th at 7:30.
- Conferences are being held 10/18-10/20.

VAIS Newspaper

- The 4/5 classroom from VAIS as well as students from NCS will be starting a newspaper. Submissions from students and parents are encouraged!
- The VAIS section will be bilingual.
- The deadline for submissions will be October 24th.
- It is likely to be a quarterly publication by the students, but that will depend on how much time it takes to learn editing/interviewing/etc.

We discussed the difference between GC initiatives and parent initiatives.

- The facebook page is a parent run page, and is not a GC initiative.
- We discussed how to best communicate the difference to parents regarding how different forms of communication will be sent. (i.e.- facebook/school messenger/seesaw.)

Chinese in classrooms

- The world language review in the district had areas of focus/improvement. One of the areas was that our students could use more focus on speaking skills.
- The Chinese teachers have been working very hard on how to collaborate and focus on speaking improvement.
- Yingying shared that 6 of her students last year scored a 6/6 on the stamp test last year on the speaking portion, so we are already seeing improvement.

Discussion of recruitment timeline/events

- We discussed moving the mini school earlier, but in order to do that, we will need access to the incoming K mailing list.
- We will offer tours over multiple months from November to February.

Discussion of recruitment of volunteers

- We discussed trying to make volunteer needs more time/event specific and less overarching commitment.
- We discussed barriers- time, not wanting to commit, not knowing about what options are available.

Budget committee

- No updates

Fundraising committee

- The color run was very successful.
- Bucky Books is currently underway.
- The holiday giving guide is coming up.

Outreach

- We discussed lots of recruitment ideas during the meeting. No other updates.
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School Climate

- We have three potential new members. We will be having a meeting in October or November.
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Parent engagement

- Family Ice Age trail hike.
- Snacks and dinner for staff will be coming up.
- Fall classroom parties are being scheduled.
- 10/29 VAIS family fall party at Harriet park
- We had several successful events this past fall.

Other business

- We will need a long-term sub for Lumei's maternity leave- a position will be posted soon.

Yingring motioned to adjourn, Teresa seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:49.