



## Governance Board Meeting MINUTES

5/4/23

Location: Valley New School / Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/7831034684>

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### Attendance

Nicole Luedtke, David Debbink, Jacqueline Neerdaels, Shannon Rabas, Jenny Tachik, Becky Johnson, Burke Wallace, Owen Garvey

### Call to Order

5:38

### Community Input/ Sharing

- 20th anniversary was a major success. Lots of good alumni feedback. Alumni attended school on Friday, an alumni event on Friday night, or the anniversary itself. Speeches from alumni were powerful. Parents felt affirmed that VNS is a good choice for their children. Appreciated the proclamation from the Mayor. "Purposeful adult" part of our mission statement really came alive.

### Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

APPROVED 5 - 0

### Committee Reports

- Finance committee - no report. Advisors requesting funding amount available from endowment so that they can plan for next year, at their July planning retreat.
- Community Partnership - enrollment has been a focus. We are currently at capacity with a waitlist
- AISA - started planning for the back to school field trip next year (in Aug or Sep). Discussed future AISA members for next year due to graduating AISA members. Reviewed student feedback from student discussion groups to



plan the last day of school. Students discussed sending a student rep to speak at the AASD school board meeting in support of VNS and our charter renewal.

### Old Business

- Building Update - discussions with AASD administration continue. Searching continues for alternative locations for VNS next year if the sale of the city center does go through. Board members have contacted AASD administration and AASD school board members. The [Post Crescent wrote an article about VNS building situation on 5/3/23](#). The owner of the Chase building submitted a counter offer for less space than VNS has now, but at a price more in line with current rent costs. District will not move forward with a new lease until confirmation is received that the city center is sold.
- 20th Anniversary - Need follow up on how much was donated to the VNS endowment

### New Business

- Staffing update - our new secretary Tanya Rosenbaum has been amazing and a wonderful addition to the team. She is taking work off the Advisors and coming up with new ideas. She will serve as the VNS Inc. Governing Board secretary. Thanks to students Owen and Reeder for filling in as note takers in previous meetings. The new advisor accepted the job offer. Andrea Fourness is currently on the governing board and a substitute teacher for Appleton Public Montessori. She is philosophically aligned with VNS. She has been in the peace corps and worked in outdoor education. She is an expert in math and science which will be a big addition to our staff.
- VNS Goodwill - VNS continues to serve the community. Unwanted artwork has been set out for free outside our building and many passerbys have taken it. VNS gave 3 large boxes of yellow fleece scarves to the Fox Cities Humane Society. They were very appreciative and will use them to place in cat carriers when cats are adopted.



- Next meeting date: TBD

**Adjourn**

**6:30pm**