

Board Meeting – Northwest Passage High School #4049 September 21st, 2021

Board members in attendance: Jason Olson, Jeff Schommer, Megan Fredrickson, Steven Rippe, Vashti Pearson

Others in attendance: Peter Wieczorek, Caroline

Absent: Val Miller

Call to order: 5:31 pm

Mission Statement: Jason said the statement and then we had a brief chat about mission statements.

Approval of August Board Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes made by Jeff and seconded by Megan. No discussion. Motion passes

Public Comment: No public comment at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Total Adopted Revenue Budget for August was \$221,901.07 versus August Actual Revenue of \$220,598.04. Total Adopted Expense Budget for August was \$233,813.43 versus August Actual Expenses of \$119,102.56. Cash total for all accounts at the end of August was \$1,087,872.07. As of the end of August, our year to date actual expenses of \$197,714.88 and actual revenue of \$382,965.67 leave us with a year to date net gain of \$185,250.79. There were no voided checks in August. The amount of the 403b match for fiscal year 2020-2021 is \$8,388.85.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report for August by Megan, seconded by Steven. No discussion. Motion passes

Director's Report:

- Program Highlights:
 - August Staff development
 - The staff spent two weeks preparing for the new school year. We found a better balance of work and prep time and some essential trainings.
 - Opening two weeks
 - School started! This is the first time we have had the full group of students back in a year and a half.
 - The first two weeks were spent doing orientation activities
 - Parents and students have been supportive of the school's decisions about Covid-19 mitigation protocols
 - Sailing Expedition -- first expedition of the school year has returned from sailing on Lake Superior with the Tall Ships folks
 - We have a full catalog of overnight expeditions for the year. An item of note is that we are starting a connection with Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center up near Duluth
 - Teacher Powered Conference in October
 - Back "in" MN this year (hosted by Education Evolving, focused out of MN)
 - NWPHS will be a host site (most likely virtual)
 - Principals Leadership Academy
 - Heavy workload, but it is going to be worth the money and time commitment
 - First two days went fast!

Old Business:

- No old business

New Business:

- Board Election: Approval of Ballots
 - A motion to approve the ballot with changes is made by Megan, Jeff seconds. Motion passes.
- Voting Process
 - October 19th Annual Meeting - all stakeholders can vote
Stakeholders include all employees of the school, board members parent/guardian of enrolled students
 - Moving forward, we should look into options for mail-in voting or similar for folks who cannot make it to the annual meeting in person
 - MACS has suggested shifting our election timelines to align with their training cycle for required school board member trainings
- Authorizer Updates
 - Peter's goal is to have a new authorizer by the 2022-2023 school year
 - MDE is requiring that we (so Peter) have a meeting with them about the process of switching authorizers
 - Peter has had an interview with IQS (Innovative Quality Schools) -- offers some really good connections, currently authorize other schools similar to us
 - Two additional meetings are scheduled
- Approval of New Hires
 - Jessica Ryan (paraprofessional) -- comes to us with more experience with younger folks but has lots of energy
 - Selena Orduno (paraprofessional) -- NWPBS graduate
 - Brandi Saba (paraprofessional) -- former board member and parent of current students
 - Anne McGee (reading specialist) -- diverse background in reading and youth counseling
 - A motion to approve new hires is made by Steven, Jeff seconds. No discussion. Motion passes
- Legislative Update
 - MACS has Special Education funding on their agenda for next month
 - Superintendents and Education Minnesota have movement around not reimbursing charter schools as high as 90%
 - Noted that these districts are not seeing all their funding -- federal reimbursement is supposed to be 40% and they are getting more like 17% (and then reimbursing charters for enrolled students at the 90% level)
 - Lease Aid -- the per pupil allotment has not changed in 7 or 8 years
 - The state of MN has paid about one billion dollars in lease aid over the last thirty years and doesn't have anything [physical] to show for it
 - There are proposals for state issued bonds
 - NWPBS currently pays about \$70,000 in taxes on our building on top of lease aid
- Approval of 403b Match for FY21
 - Megan motions to approve the 403b match of \$8,388.85 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Steven seconds the motion. No discussion. Motion passes.
- Review Director goals
 - Two two things Peter has identified as consuming the majority of his time are: numbers & recruitment and Covid-related "stuff"
 - Peter will lean on board members for assistance with recruiting-related planning and tasks, being out in the community, etc.

