



**THE PROSPER VALLEY SCHOOL
Board of Directors Meeting, Draft
Monday, March 7, 2016 @ 6:00 PM**

Present: Seth Shaw, Jody Eaton, Bob Coates, Justin Shipman, Jennifer Gieseke, Seth Westbrook, Rob Hanson – Teacher, Barb Leonard – Teacher, Lisa Sjostrom – Principal, Alice Worth – Superintendent of Schools

I. Call to order by Alice Worth: 6:21 PM

II. Visitor: Greg Greene

III. Reorganization of the board:

Alice Worth opened nominations for The Prosper Valley School Board Chair. Seth Shaw was nominated for the Board Chair position and accepted.

Motion to approve Seth Shaw as TPVS Board Chair

Moved: Bob Coates

Seconded: Jody Eaton

IV. Motion to approve minutes from January 26, 2016 and February 1, 2016

Moved: Seth Shaw

Seconded: Justin Shipman



V. Action/Discussion:

Staff Appointments:

Motion to approve Staff Appointment list as written

Moved: Seth Shaw

Seconded: Justin Shipman

Update/Status Reports:

Operations – Lisa Sjostrom will have Chic McMaster contact Efficiency Vermont to have them visit our school and determine how we can be more efficient.

Food Service – Our breakfast numbers are way up. 20-30 children are purchasing breakfast and 55-75 children are purchasing lunch. We are finding ways to make the standard fare healthier. We will be launching The Greene House, named after our amazing Greg Greene, very soon.

VI. Reports

Principal

Update: Grade 5 Hire – Lisa will be hiring a 5th grade Teacher for FY 2016/17

Dalai Lama Center Initiative: Raising Ethical Leaders – The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT is launching with The Prosper Valley School to pilot their Transformative Teachers and Parents Program, holding 4 workshops throughout next school year.

The TTPP is an international project that will bring teachers and parents together to support the children's ethical character development and link the school with a sister school in Mexico City to promote cross-cultural learning. We are very excited for this opportunity!

Enrichment Update: Spring Fling and Nuvu – TPVS is piloting a series of 12 fascinating mini-courses to broaden our students' horizons beyond our usual curricula. Students choose among a



range of offerings that meet six times on Friday mornings from 8:10-9:10 am starting on Friday, March 25 and ending on Friday, May 6th.

On Saturday, April 23rd, TPVS is sending 22 students (grades 5 and 6) to NuVu, a “magnet innovation center for young minds” based in Cambridge, Massachusetts where “young students grow their spirit and innovation.” NuVu is geared around hands-on collaborative projects that prize creative thinking. Students tackle real-world challenges in a fun studio setting.

Solar Proposal, Norwood Long – Norwood met with Lisa to discuss the Sustainable Woodstock – Going Solar initiative. The board had a conversation about finding grants for solar power in elementary schools along with how to best conserve energy at TPVS.

Teacher

Rob Hanson thanked the board for their commitment and ease of their relationship with the staff of TPVS, throughout this transitioning year. He and Barb Leonard thanked Greg Greene for creating an experience that has been phenomenal. Greg’s motto has always been that it’s all about the kids. The time that he has devoted to the children and the staff, to researching, listening, and caring has been unbelievable. They thanked him for his 9 years serving The Pomfret School, The Prosper Valley School, the Pomfret community, and the Bridgewater community.

Rob shared photos with the board taken by students in the Horizon’s Observatory. There will be a photo exhibit at ArtisTree. Chess Club starts on Thursday, the 10th. Barb shared what was happening in the 2nd grade classroom. The children have been visiting with their elder friends at The Thompson’s Senior Center. This has been a yearlong event, culminating in a published book with artwork and text from their combined bonding experiences.

Board

Justin has asked the board to come to the next meeting ready to discuss creating a vision for our school using the Essential Work of School Boards information. The board has decided to keep our first Monday of every month meeting day and time at 6:00 pm.

At the Bridgewater Town Meeting, Justin said that the community was happy with the direction of our school. Jody will contact Joel Carey to talk about the field schedule for spring sports. Sara Smith and Sarah Walker have invited the board to the next PTO meeting on March 30th at 5:30 pm.



VII. Adjournment at 8:20 PM

Next meetings:

TPVS – Monday, April 4, 2016 @ 6:00 PM – TPVS Library

WCSU – Monday, March 14, 2016 @ 6:00 PM – WCSU Conference Room