



THE PROSPER VALLEY SCHOOL
Board of Directors Meeting, Draft
Monday, November 6, 2017 @ 6:30 PM

Present: Seth Shaw, Jody Eaton, Seth Westbrook, Justin Shipman, Patti Kuzmickas, Josh Gregg, Heather Durkel – Teacher Representative, John Hansen – Interim Principal

I. Call to order: 6:33 PM

II. Amendments to the Agenda:

Action/Discussion –

1. Emergency Action Plan
2. Bridge Repair

III. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: October 2, 2017

Moved: Justin Shipman
Seconded: Josh Gregg

IV. Community Engagement/Public Comment: no visitors

V. Action/Discussion:

1. Emergency Action Plan – In light of current events, we would like to make sure that our action plan in an emergency is up to date, relevant, and practiced. John Hansen said that every school in which he has worked has had a locked front door for the past 10 years or so. Josh Gregg mentioned making sure that we have a Shelter In Place plan as well. John will assess our current plans and have recommendations at our next meeting.
2. Bridge Repair – John let the board know that our current bridge is in very rough shape and is no longer safe. Seth Westbrook will get a few people together this weekend to shore it up so that the children will be able to access our trails this winter. A plan will be devised on how to build a new bridge by next summer.
3. FY19 Budget Priorities/New Initiatives – John says that the priority will be to maintain at least the level of our current staff. TPVS will build our budget carefully and thoughtfully. Seth Shaw will talk to Richard Seaman about \$175,000 that needs to go back to the State and if that is true. It is important that we clean out the school shed, find a place for a large number of unused desks, clean up the trail system in our forest, fix or rebuild the bridge in order to maintain our outdoor learning classroom, and power up the greenhouse with irrigation and a useable fan system.

4. Approve Addition of Para-educator Position –
Motion to approve an additional Para-educator position

Moved: Justin Shipman

Seconded: Jody Eaton

5. Montshire Partnership – There is a \$3000 bill owed to Montshire by TPVS for services that teachers used last year. The board approved the relationship but were under the impression that this was a free service to local schools. John will try to negotiate the bill down. The board has decided after hearing from teachers, that we will not sign a contract for the current school year with Montshire.

VI. Reports

1. Operations Report - no report

2. Food Service Report – no report

3. Principal's Report - Chef Randall's last day will be November 7th. He is going to work as a librarian. Thank you to Randall, for your service to our school. Pamela Potwin, who lives in Barnard, will be taking over. Welcome, Pamela! Barnard Academy would like to explore sharing food service with TPVS. Abbey Group would use our kitchen to prepare the food and then they would hire someone to transport it to Barnard. Advantages would be that the cost could go down for TPVS. There are disadvantages as well. All positives and negatives will be explored before making a decision on this. We currently serve about 50 lunches and 20 breakfasts per day. John is going to look into rules and regulations concerning children cooking and baking in TPVS kitchen.

John addressed Jody Eaton's concern about the shape of our Lobby. There needs to be a solution to our storage issue along with making our Lobby more inviting with wall hangings or a greenscape, etc. A bill was received for website development, which was not in the budget. We will move forward with finalizing our new website. There will be health leaves coming up in the near future. Katie Jacobsen will leave from November 17th until January 2nd. Heather Durkel will be taking a maternity leave near the end of December. Christine Morton will be out on leave for the first 2 weeks of January.

John says that we have incredible strengths on the staff here at TPVS. He says that there is a nice mix of experience with new and fresh ideas. Justin Shipman expressed his happiness and thanks with the way that John communicates with the board, parents, and children.

4. Staff Report – A new contract was agreed upon for the Woodstock Elementary Coalition Group and TPVS staff are now linked to this salary schedule. The salary that was agreed upon will go into effect in December 2017. Heather spoke of the concern from staff regarding a recent email sent by Richard Seaman which spoke of teachers having to take a step back with this new schedule. Seth will contact Richard for an explanation. Staff will also have new health insurance soon. Heather wondered if it would be a good idea for the staff to sign a new contract, which states their new salary and insurance? The board thought that this was a good idea. Justin Shipman asked John Hansen to research a new contract for teachers to sign.

5. Board Report - Jody Eaton reported that the Harvest Supper this year was a tremendous success, grossing over \$6500! There will be a math night on November 14th to discuss a new math website called Dreambox Math. Kathy Earnst will be leading the meeting.

VII. Agenda Setting for August Meeting -

1. Please change the meeting on December 4th to 6 pm.

2. Act 46 dissolution of The Pomfret School District and transfer (lease) of the school and campus to the new Windsor Central Unified District.

VIII. Adjournment – 9:13 pm – closing poem read by Seth Shaw – Blue Prints by Bob Hicok

Next meetings:

TPVS – Monday, December 4, 2017 @ 6:00 PM – TPVS Library ***Note time change***

WCSU – Monday, November 13, 2017 @ 6:00 PM – WCSU Conference Room