**Minutes for Wednesday December 13, 2023 – 2pm**

Via Zoom Meeting or in person at the Corolla Library

In attendance: President Meghan Agresto, VP/Treasurer Bryan Daggett, Secretary Allison Broughton, Al Marzetti, Marci Moore, Wayne Evans. Executive Director Sylvia Wolff. Members of the public: Erin Price, Karen Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm. A quorum was established.

Board action

* Approve November minutes – Meghan made a motion to approve. Bryan seconded and all voted in favor.
* Bonuses – Discussion to follow in closed session.
* Calendar proposal for 2024-25 school year – Parents continue to prefer a non-traditional February break. WEVS opts for 1,025 instructional hours vs. 180 days. Will keep 8:45am start time and 3:40pm end time, even though enough instructional time is built in that day could end at 3:35. Start date after Labor Day due to Chapel conflicts (not guaranteed that new building will be open so may still be using chapel). End date would be June 5, 2025. Calendar has been vetted by teachers. Meghan made a motion to approve. Wayne seconded and all voted in favor.
* Storage – Pasquotank/Elizabeth City has a surplus of furniture (teacher desks, science tables, student desks, tables, and chairs, and bookcases) that they are selling at a discount. Proposal to purchase furniture and contract a unit at Harbinger Storage to store until needed for the new school building. Meghan made a motion to approve a contract for 15x15 unit. Bryan seconded and all voted in favor.
* Ratification – One of the CDs had a one-time option to convert to a higher yield CD at no cost. Opened two new CDs- one 5-month at 4.75%, maturing in April, and one 13-month at 5.03%, maturing in December. Also at this time, we got a significant increase in the interest rate for the funds in the new building money market, which will now earn 3.46%. Al made a motion to ratify the action on the CD transfers. Wayne seconded and all voted in favor.
* Naming rights – tabled until next meeting

Board President/Director’s Update

* + Enrollment/attendance update-
    - Two new students started just before Thanksgiving – They are doing great with the transition. Attendance is now up to 43 students.
    - Lottery is open on website and on FB – Officially have four children on lottery list and know of two more who will be added. SIP team has some marketing strategies they will be implementing after the holidays.
    - Mid-year survey that was sent out to parents last month was analyzed, results shared with board today
    - Five absence letters going out for three unlawful absences. None are, at this point, concerning re: academic progress.
    - Sylvia working with SIP to create recruiting campaign:
      * Material to preschools
  + Annual mailing letter and non-profit postage rate approved
  + Personnel – sick days/professional development/volunteer report-
    - Licensure update (Teacher Gill applied with help from DPI – still pending, will be dated July 1, 2023) Teachers Voldish and Gill are entering the final semesters of their respective Masters’ degree programs. Teacher Kelly and Sylvia are signed up for NCCAT, which is always inspiring, great for networking, and all-around a very worthwhile experience**.**
    - Volunteers have been consistent and helpful.
  + Innovative Involvements: Projects/Field Trips/Daily Operations
    - Thanksgiving potluck was a success – 30+ non-school attendees
    - Whalehead performance was successful, we ran 3 performances all well attended by at least 10 family-members per group. Nine out of 10 middle schoolers plus three 5th graders participated (more)
  + Calendar and Events
  + Data, Grants, Testing and Reports
    - Check Ins – looking solid. Check-ins are mini EOGs administered three times a year to 3rd through 8th graders.
    - ISIP reports – looking amazing. iStation reading and math administered monthly to provide a trending set of information.
    - Meeting with Dare County
      * **Informative** meeting with Superintendent Basnight and Assistant Superintendent Blackstock, both of whom used to be in Currituck County schools. Superintendent Basnight encourages Corolla students to apply as Currituck resident to attend FFHS so we can get clear picture of numbers of students per Currituck wanting to attend Dare. He is sympathetic to the fact that Corolla students must pass through Dare County to get to CHS. Planning to open an early college school near Manteo, optimistically by September 2024.
      * FFMS principal – Discussion re: what kind of high school classes are 8th graders offered and whether there are any opportunities for collaboration between WEVS and FFMS. Left with great information re: 8th grade preparation.
  + Directors proposals- please see Director’s report, also sent to BOD in email:
    - Tech contract – No proposal yet. Will re-visit as soon as possible.

Treasurer’s Report

We are through 42% of the fiscal year and the year-to-date financials show revenue about $10k above expenses because of the state revenue. We have received 68% of the state funds forecast for the whole year. Money from the counties continues to lag, including no money from Dare county yet, and only 20% of money from Currituck county.

No DOE 341 money as part of our REAP grant has been received.

For the year, we still project a modest deficit in the operating account.

Expenses are within 2% of budget.

As of Dec. 11th financial accounts showed:

Operating account- $180k

New Building savings account- $247k

New building CD accounts: $ 1021k

We exercised an option to move funds to higher yielding CDs without penalty at the end of November (action ratified above).

Interest earned on CDs has totaled over $20k already this year.

Received letter from county approving exemption for county taxes for land. 990 form information has been sent so taxes will be filed on time.

Committee Reports

* Curriculum Committee update – Mentor/mentee meeting with Sylvia, Marcy. Sylvia had time to give individual teachers feedback and took that to Mentor Marcy. Marcy heard feedback from teachers that transition times are tough but that should take care of itself with the new building.
* Capital Campaign Committee Update – Met this week. Christmas in Corolla is feeding the campaign. $3800 Significant contributions in memory of Meghan’s mother. 19 different individuals/trusts that donated $5k+ during last fiscal year.
* Facilities Committee – 8x8s driven again, failed, all agreed to move forward on longs/round pilings?
* School Improvement Plan Committee: Working their tails off. Running Christmas in Corolla and planning for marketing.
* Grievance Committee – n/a

Public comment – n/a

Meghan made a motion to move into closed session. Marcy seconded and all voted in favor.

CLOSED SESSION

Bonuses:

NC approved new base salaries for teachers. Sylvia proposes bonuses instead of salary increases, one to be paid out at mid-year (at semester mark in late January) and one at year-end (June). Bonuses would maintain the WEVS incentives above NC base salaries. 50% in January will be just to get salaries where they need to be. End of year can be adjusted to include performance bonuses as well.

Meghan made a motion to approve the bonus proposal. Al seconded and all voted in favor.

Meghan made a motion to move out of closed session. Bryan seconded and all voted in favor.