



THE Vanguard School

Board of Directors Meeting
Location: The Vanguard Library

This meeting will also be livestreamed.
A link and instructions to view will be emailed to our community within 24 hours of this meeting.

***** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 *****

Working Session 5:00 P.M.

Public Session 6:00 P.M.

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Matt Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Rene' Chatham, Tracy Coons, Matt Hughes, and Eric Koppisch were present. Kurt Peters attended virtually.

2. Approval of Agenda

Rene' Chatham moved to approve the agenda. Tracy Coons seconded the motion. All voted yes. The motion was approved.

3. Consent Items

- Approval of Minutes, September 20, 2023
Rene' Chatham moved to approve the September board meeting minutes. Tracy Coons seconded the motion. All voted yes. The motion was approved.
- Separations
 - Lilly Speier 4-6 Math and Science Teacher
- New Hires
 - Allana Powell 4-6 Non-instructional Aide
 - Cheyenne Brown Cheerleading Coach
 - Victoria Montano Health Technician
 - Devin Tenboer School Security Officer

4. Visitor Comments (3 minutes per individual)

Approved at least a week in advance per board Policy BEDH as found on our website

- Parent Sheila Schaeffer presented her ideas for improving two-way communication and forming strategic planning partnerships with parents.

5. Treasurer's Report

Eric Koppisch presented the Treasurer's Report and reviewed the financials as of September 30, 2023.

6. 2023 CMAS Analysis Presentation

Clint Randall and Jocelyn Nelson presented an analysis of our students' growth and achievement based on the Spring 2023 CMAS data for grades three through eight. Overall, Vanguard students performed well in comparison to our most highly represented districts and the state of Colorado. Vanguard earned a Performance rating at all levels – elementary, junior high, and high school. We continue to address ongoing challenges and respond to the data to improve overall instruction and student achievement. General trends were identified and initiatives to improve in specific areas were reviewed.

7. Review of 2024-25 Academic Calendar

Mrs. Henslee presented a comparison between this year's academic calendar and the proposed 2024-25 academic calendar to the board, noting that it was also in line with the district calendar. She added that the final board approval was slated for the November meeting.

8. Bylaws Review – Board Meeting Attendance

With the recent addition of livestreaming the monthly board meetings, Matt Hughes discussed the need for the board to address the in-person attendance requirement for board candidate eligibility. He noted that the board will finalize this issue at the November meeting.

9. Parent Code of Conduct Committee

Eric Koppish proposed that a sub-committee of the board be selected to include five members representing the board, staff, faculty, and parent community to draft a parent code of conduct and present that draft to the board to obtain approval to move forward.

Eric Koppish moved that the board form a sub-committee to draft a parent code of conduct. Kurt Peters seconded the motion. All voted yes. The motion was approved. Mr. Koppisch explained how those interested in serving on this committee should contact him, no later than Wednesday, October 25.

10. Executive Director Search Update

- Dr. Cooper, our search consultant with McPherson & Jacobson, has completed the first phase of the search and presented the results of the stakeholder feedback sessions and survey gathered in September to our board on October 4.
- The next steps and tentative timeline in the search are:
 - Oct 13 Vacancy posted and advertised
 - Nov 30 Applications deadline
 - Dec 15 Video responses due from selected candidates
 - Early January Preliminary candidate interviews / naming of finalists
 - Mid-January Interviews with finalists
 - Late January Board names the selected candidate

11. Strategic Plan Update

Health

- Health screenings are now 99% complete.
- The district audiologist has completed all retests and referrals.

Security

- The Vanguard School is planning to hold Secure/Lock-down drills across all grade levels tomorrow at 8:30 A.M. These are regularly scheduled drills that are part of the school's annual training plan.
- We have added a second, Vanguard-employed, full-time security officer, Devin Tenboer.
- Our security coverage has increased to 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. daily.
- The Neighborhood Safety Committee will host new Councilwoman, Michelle Talarico, this Thursday. The councilwoman is interested in our security efforts and will also have a short tour of our K-3 campus.

Enrollment

- We had another successful Count Day effort with an expected enrollment of 1542.
- Tour season has begun, with our assistant principals leading most tours for prospective families.

HR

- Chris Krueger and Erick Macher attended the DU Career Fair on October 4. Our next career fair will be at UNC for their annual Fall K-12 Educator Fair, where those attending are primarily educators seeking teaching careers upon graduation.
- Erick Macher attended the monthly Transition Assistant Program (TAP) and Career Services Program (CSP) briefings at Fort Carson last month to discuss transitioning service members from active duty to civilian life.
- Due to the high military presence in the state, the CDE office is exploring a way to resurge a troops-to-teacher program in the Colorado Springs area. Similar to the way we conduct our internship with our student-teacher program with UCCS, there is an opportunity to do a service member-teacher program internship with transitioning service members 180 days from their retirement/separation date.

IT

- Digital PSAT and IowaFlex assessments had a successful start after initial issues with testing provider servers. With additional Chromebooks for elementary as well as network improvements over the last few years, we can comfortably test over three hundred students at once.
- Continued progress is being made on the field sound system; new electric circuits were run this week.
- All additional security cameras are now fully operational, bringing the number of cameras to 139, total, for all campuses.
- We are seeing a recent increase in new phishing attacks using embedded QR codes in emails, which avoid traditional link scanning detection. We are updating our cybersecurity awareness training materials to address this emerging threat.

Facilities

- The K-3 playground installation on Wahsatch is planned for Fall Break, pending delivery.
- New fencing for the Wahsatch playground is also scheduled for installation during Fall Break.
- The school has purchased another vehicle for school security officers.
- Planning for the Vanguard mural on the north wall of the high school, led by Mr. Custer, will begin in January.

12. Executive Director's Report – Renee Henslee

General / K-12 Overview

- Community Service
 - We will again be joining with our Neighborhood Safety Committee partners to support these holiday events which benefit members of our local community: the Thanksgiving Baskets project, with donations gathered from November 6-16, and the Blessings Store project, with gifts collected from December 4-7.

- Next Monday will be a staff development day for teachers as well as the day that some high school group conferences will be held with parents.

Elementary / K-6

- Color Day happened in September, and this K-6 event was a big success. Homeroom classes were assigned a specific color and earned points for their collective team. Team Green won the day! We also coupled the Penny Wars with Color Day this year, and the school earned over \$3500 in donations.
- Our first round of IowaFlex testing occurred in third grade. Overall, it went well, but we will continue to review the new program and our implementation to make the testing as smooth as possible. This week, IowaFlex will continue in grades 1 through 8.
- Students and staff appreciated the K-3 Pizza Friday event last week.
- Third graders went to Fountain Creek for a field trip where they expanded upon their ecosystem unit in science. It was a successful grade level experience.
- During October, the third and fourth grades will be hosting their Roman and Medieval Festivals, respectively. These culminating events celebrate learning about these historical time periods in class. The festivals are also very positive and enjoyable days for the students.
- PTO's Fall Festival will be hosted this month. This community event was extremely popular last year, and we anticipate that it will be highly attended again.

Secondary / 7-12

- Our high school virtue discussions are off to a successful start this year. The upper classmen led their first discussion last week, and they all did a wonderful job bringing their own personalities to the lesson.
- Student Government has done a great job planning our high school Spirit Week. We had a great kick-off with flag football games and the bonfire on Monday. This Friday, we will watch the juniors and seniors compete for the Flag Football Championship. The *Garden of Lanterns* Homecoming Dance is this Saturday.
- Sophomores and juniors completed the NMSQT/PSAT testing.
- Our amazing students will entertain in our high school musical *Mary Poppins* with four performances from November 2-4.
- Junior high held Student Council elections. Cameron Jenkins won the presidency. Lilliana Martin won the vice presidency and has been doing a fantastic job doing the morning announcements.
- Our seventh graders did an excellent job with their *The Song of Hiawatha* papers and visual representations.
- IowaFlex testing began this week for the junior high. This test will give our students immediate feedback on how they are performing and which skills they need support with.

Athletics

- In cross country, Nadhia Campos was the Tri Peaks League individual girls champion and Tri Peaks League Runner of the Year.
- The girls volleyball team is currently 14-5 and 5 on the season with eyes toward a spot at regionals. Regular season ends on October 25; regionals will be played on November 4.
- Congratulations to Coach Armbrust, Coach Smith, and the entire girls flag football teams on a great first season. The team finished 9-6 on the season.
- Our junior high boys soccer team was the CCAL champion with a 4-2 win over Colorado Springs Christian.

13. Teacher Salary Analysis Presentation

Renee Henslee stated that we want to continue to provide information on key issues for the school, and tonight's presentation addresses teacher salaries. She noted that we have intentionally focused on teacher salaries and made teacher pay a top priority. A full analysis to include benefits, salary, and incentives was completed. Mrs. Henslee reported that over the last four years, we have significantly

