



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, February 21, 2024 *****
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 6:03 P.M. Tracy Coons, Matt Hughes, Eric Koppisch, and Kurt Peters were present. Rene' Chatham attended via phone.

2. Approval of Agenda

Kurt Peters moved to approve the agenda. It was decided to strike item #11, Executive Session. Tracy Coons seconded the motion. All voted yes. The motion was approved.

3. Consent Items

- Approval of Minutes, November 15, 2023
Kurt Peters moved to approve the November board meeting minutes. Eric Koppisch seconded the motion. All voted yes. The motion was approved.

Separations

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • April Backes | HS Spanish Teacher |
| • Natalie Lopresti | K-3 Assistant Teacher (Non-instructional) |
| • Ayanna Moore | K-3 Assistant Teacher (Non-instructional) |

New Hires

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • Kirsten Matheny | 4-6 Assistant Teacher (Non-instructional) |
| • Michael Oliphant | K-3 Assistant Teacher (Non-instructional) |
| • Laney Swan | JV Boys Volleyball Coach |
| • Skyler Utter | After School Care Provider |

4. Treasurer's Report – Eric Koppisch

Eric Koppisch presented the Treasurer's Report and reviewed the financials as of January 31, 2024.

5. Review of Board Election Process

Board of Directors Election Schedule for the 2024-2025 School Year

- The Board seat of the following board member will be up for election this year:
 - **Rene' Chatham** (term through May 2024)
Qualifications for this open Board position are: No eligible children or have 50% or more of his or her eligible children enrolled at The Vanguard School.
- Candidates must have also attended at least three (3) complete Board meetings in the twelve (12) months prior to the date of candidate verification for eligibility (*see below*).
- During their 5-year term, each member of the Board of Directors is required to annually sign the Board of Directors Agreement (*found in Appendix A of The Vanguard School Bylaws*).

Individuals who are interested in running for the Board of Directors for the 2024-2025 school year should adhere to the following schedule:

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

- Interested candidates must notify the Board in writing of their intent to run for office by this date.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting

- Board will verify by resolution that the candidates are eligible to run.
- *Meet the Candidates Forum* at 7:00 P.M. (following the Board meeting in the Vanguard library)

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

- Voting begins via online questionnaire. Up to two parents or legal guardians of a child enrolled at The Vanguard School are entitled to one vote each for the open Board position.

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

- Voting ends at 4:00 P.M.
- Results will be announced at the regular board meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting

- Current and new Director attend
- New Director is sworn in

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting

- Board reorganization is considered

6. Elementary Overview - Presentation by Deena Gerber and Dawn Khederian

Dawn Khederian and Deena Gerber presented information on key aspects of the excellent educational experience our K-6 students have at Vanguard. Topics covered included testing, literacy labs, character development, behavior management, Courser Days, staffing, and planned future improvements.

7. Strategic Plan Update

Health

- Our annual Immunization Fact Sheet has been updated and sent to families via our weekly newsletter; immunization rates were above average and met state requirements.
- Our medical team continues with follow-ups on vision and hearing referrals.

Security

- A grant was submitted on behalf of the school's security team for various school safety/security improvements. A response is expected by mid-May.

Enrollment

- We have 125 newly enrolled kindergartners. There are 22 active offers of enrollment for grades K-11.
- Despite canceling two days of testing due to the weather, we have administered 29 placement tests so far.
- The next large testing session is this Saturday, where we have 65 testers already scheduled out of the 90 available appointments.

HR

- Career fairs are starting up again, and staff will be attending fairs in Grand Junction, at UNC, UCCS, DU, and the University of New Mexico.
- Based on the results of our Letter of Intent surveys, we are expecting approximately a 12% turnover; hiring season has begun and will ramp up in the coming months

IT

- The IT department is supporting several state and national online assessments this month including ITBS, CLT-10, CLT, and NAEP.
- IT is partnering with security to build a custom integration between Infinite Campus and Raptor to make Raptor work the way we need it to for emergency communication and alerting.

Facilities

- The east Corona fence was repaired at all three locations last week after damage caused by an after-hours driver.
- Colorado Springs utilities approved the 2024 electrical project for Modular M, and it is in progress to be completed.
- The Corona campus marquee sign, electrical, and landscaping project planning is underway.
- The Modular I permit was submitted to the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department last week for approval.
- We are planning for additional permanent bleachers and a flagpole by the track area and soccer field.

8. Executive Director's Report – Renee Henslee

General / K-12 Overview

- The finalist for Vanguard's Executive Director position, Dr. Jim Smith, was announced by the board on January 24. Dr. Smith accepted the position, and he was introduced to all staff at a K-12 staff meeting on February 2. That day, he also met with our Leadership Team, toured both of our campuses, and met with Mrs. Henslee to begin the transition process. Additional transition dates have been planned.
- Enrollment for 2024-25 is underway. Eighth-grade shadow days are coming up. Students will get an opportunity to experience a high school classroom and choose a club to visit. Junior High Information Night was held on January 23, followed by High School Information Night on January 24. Both had good turnouts. Kindergarten Readiness Night is set for March 7.

Elementary / K-6

- Iowa Test of Basic Skills testing went well. This was our first time using the computers for the tests, and it was an appreciated change. Teachers found the immediate availability of the testing data very useful.

- Upper elementary students love being honored for Principal's List at assembly and Honor Roll within their homerooms in support of our academic rigor. Each grade level was presented awards with a parent photo opportunity.
- First-grade historians celebrated ancient Egypt with the Egyptian Festival. The event was well planned by Liz Wilson and the first-grade team. Many parents joined throughout the day.
- Both elementary campuses paraded through the buildings to showcase who students chose to honor for Hero Day. Costumes included students honoring their parents, teachers, first responders, medical professionals, and more. Many parents joined the lower elementary for the parade.

Junior High / 7-8

- ITBS testing has been completed. It was our first time doing it online, and it went very well.
- Our new character bulletin board is up. In each of their classes, students get to see and learn about the character trait of the month. We've been focusing on respect.
- Our junior high entryway wall is up and almost finished. Lights will be put up behind our Vanguard V soon, along with the student names. This is one of several ways we're trying to incorporate a sense of pride and belonging in the Dome. Kudos to Mr. Welsh for his leadership on this project.
- Our teacher and student bulletin board is up with the mural of our Coursers. Examples of the character and hard work of students and teachers will soon be displayed.
- Our *On Broadway!* choir performance went extremely well with our students performing for their parents and classmates.

High School / 9-12

- Our Matchwits team, led by Mr. Bishop, competed in the regional tournament and placed third overall. Due to their success, our team received an invitation to the state competition.
- Our amazing Capstone support team completed the first round of grading and feedback for our seniors. The final submission for seniors is February 26.
- The mural art class has made significant progress on their design, plotting out each section, and adding elements of Vanguard. Scaffolding construction will begin March 15 for the mural project to come to life on the blue, north wall of the high school.
- The kindergarten-grade 12 bunny hop event is on March 21. We get some of the best pictures from our youngest and oldest students finding eggs together.

Athletics

- Boys and girls basketball has shifted focus to the post-season. Both teams earned byes in the first round of the district tournament. With terrific regular seasons, both teams have earned the right to play Friday and Saturday in Florence with sights set on District Championships. Also, based on great regular seasons, both teams have earned the right to compete in the CHSAA Regional Tournament which will be next weekend, March 1-2.
- The spring sports season began this week with girls golf and boys volleyball officially starting. The remainder of high school sports as well as junior high lacrosse start next Monday. Junior high sports begin March 11.
- The Coursers are excited for strong spring seasons with record high participation numbers anticipated.

9. Board Items

Board Comments

- Tracy Coons noted her excitement about all the positive reinforcement in our elementary schools and the great job Dawn Khederian and Deena Gerber are doing. She also mentioned her excitement about the junior high wall updates and the upcoming facilities updates.

