



Sisu Environmental School Board Meeting Agenda
September 8, 2021, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Attendees: **Kate Maki, Kendra Hunding, Zach Fjelstad, Courtney Cox, Beth Odegard, Katie Camacho**

Visitors: **Ellie Menso**

All visitors will be given a chance to speak if they wish. Speaking time will be limited to two minutes.

1. Call meeting to order: 7:06 pm

Reading of Mission: "Delivering a bold education in the renowned Finnish style, empowering each child on their own unique educational journey to become competent, creative, and joyful learners."

2. Check-in (5)

Consider this question: What verb or adjective in our mission resonates with you and why?

Kate - Competent, Beth and Ellie - Joyful, Zach - Unique, Katie - empowering, Courtney - Journey, Kendra - Bold

Keywords of reasoning - Happy, all encompassing, know your worth, adventure, trailblazer, design.

Meeting Outcomes (what we'd like to get done tonight):

- ★ Governance Committee update
- ★ Marketing Committee update
- ★ Decide on temporary board officer roles
- ★ Consider proposal for Communications/Outreach task force
- ★ Update on contract with IQS
- ★ Discuss what our consistent messaging to the public will be
- ★ Finalize plan for FinnFest Picnic on 9/11
- ★ Plan October event/Make decisions on marketing expenditures
- ★ Schedule meeting to approve contractual goals before September 22

- ★ Consider a structure for collaboration i.e. norms of collaboration

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Motion to approve by Camacho; seconded by Fjelstad; motion carried unanimously.

3. Consent agenda - (2)

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of last meeting's minutes

4. Committee updates - (10)

Governance: Fjelstad briefly went over the attached governance meeting minutes. Highlighted the items the committee wanted to discuss with the group. The committee wanted to request google meets to be the platform for future meetings, create a restriction for adding new board members, and adopt a code of conduct for the board.

Request to approve googlemets as a platform for future meetings.
Motioned by Maki, seconded by Fjelstad; motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation by the committee to limit board membership until a policy is created was tabled to the next meeting.

Marketing: Discussion that Camacho will bring the apparel to the FinnFest event and Cox followed up on the quality of the work. The company has remade the order and will send it to Camacho. If not improved, then Cox will request a refund. The other items discussed in the marketing meeting will be discussed later in the meeting.

Motion to move to Discussion items - Board roles/officers by Hunding; seconded by Maki; motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion items: - (30)

Board Roles/Officers - Discussion (As discussed at the governance committee meeting) IQS requires officer positions to be filled, Hunding suggested the current standing to be Fjelstad - treasurer, Maki - secretary, Hunding - Chair. Camacho expressed concern that these positions may not be rotated without a limit on the positions. Maki suggested that the focus not be on the officer limits, but to hope the officers commit to a minimum time frame. The group accepted that this is a temporary fill, as soon as the school is functioning the officer positions will need to change.

Fjelstad motioned to approve these positions, seconded by Odegard; motion carried unanimously.

Motion to move to Discussion items - Communication and Outreach Task Force Proposal Board by Camacho; seconded by Maki; motion carried unanimously.

Communication and Outreach Task Force Proposal - Odegard presents idea, briefly describes the proposal attached. Board reaction is encouraging. Maki suggests the task force also include grants.

Motion to approve the task force and include grant writing and the ability to reach out to board members for help by Camacho; seconded by Maki; motion carried unanimously.

Motion to move to Discussion items - IQS/Sisu Contract update and next steps by Hunding; seconded by Camacho; motion carried unanimously.

IQS/Sisu Contract update and next steps - Hunding explained that she met with IQS to discuss the goals that were MDE specific and items that she could complete without the help of New Nordic Schools. She is meeting with New Nordic Schools **on Friday September 10 at 9:00 am CST** and a special meeting is needed to approve the final goals. Hunding also mentioned IQS suggested Harry Adler would attend a board meeting to offer guidance on meetings. And Rochele _____ is our cadre team leader, she has a personal attraction to the school so it is a good fit.

Motion to schedule a special meeting for approval of the goals and possibly discuss any calendar items for New Nordic School will be held on September 21 at 7pm by Maki; seconded by Hunding; motion carried unanimously.

Motion to move to Discussion items - FinnFest planning by Maki; seconded by Odegard; motion carried unanimously.

FinnFest planning - As a group we discussed we will bring our own meals and have a picnic style lunch. Camacho pointed out this will be easier for individuals to plan due to food sensitivities and children attending. We will meet at 11 AM, Camacho will bring apparel for us to wear as advertising, we will text to decide on a location for our picnic.

Motion to move to Discussion items - Sisu messaging by Maki; seconded by Camacho; motion carried unanimously.

Sisu messaging - Hunding begins discussion as we need main talking points to provide consistency in our message. Especially since we are going to be at an event this coming weekend. We want to provide an easy clear message that is consistent and not confusing for individuals to comprehend. Half of the group is nervous about what to say as they don't want to exclude individuals by using statements that are too jargony or misleading for individuals. Discussion revolved around how to relate to people. Is it okay to compare to similar systems that may overlap in ideology, is that misleading? Is it ok to explain utilizing the parts of Sisu that resonate with us individually? Many questions were discussed. The consensus was that Hunding knows more about all of this than anyone else and she wrote up a blurb in June that we will use as a reference. This will help keep consistency in our communication. In addition we will adjust it to our own language to create comfort in our conversation so that it isn't jargon or robotic in how we convey the information.

Sisu Environmental School will use an instructional approach based on the highly successful Finnish Education System that emphasizes whole-child development, equity of education, collaboration over competition, the outdoors and nature, and student well-being as important elements of the curriculum. Our customized "Finnesota Approach" will provide a Finnish-style education for Minnesota kids.

Our Mission: "Delivering a bold education in the renowned Finnish style, empowering each child on their own unique educational journey to become competent, creative, and joyful learners."

Sisu plans to open in the fall of 2022, initially to serve grades K-5, and eventually expand to include middle school grades 6-8 as students progress through our program.

Motion to move to Discussion items - Marketing Materials by Hunding; seconded by Odegard; motion carried unanimously.

Marketing materials and expenditures - Hunding explained that the business cards are 50 for \$11 and the post cards are 50 for \$15. The group liked the first option better but wanted to add a few features from the second card to the first. The QR code is important and we want to direct people to the website as much as possible.

Motion to use the first business card option but add the QR code, trendy social media options, and use the color and font that matches the Sisu brand and to use \$26 of the funds raised by Maki; seconded by Camacho; motion carried unanimously.

Tabled for next meeting
Fall event planning

Motion to move to Board Development items - Required training check in by Hunding; seconded by Maki; motion carried unanimously.

6. Board development (20)

- a. Required training check-in - Zach and Courtney still completing the board training. Maki, Odegard, Camacho, and Hunding all completed the training.
- b. Decide on a completion date - All training should be completed by November 1st.

Motion to have all training completed by Nov 1st by Camachi; seconded by Odegard; motion carried unanimously.

Motion to move to Board Development items - Calendar by Camacho; seconded by Odegard; motion carried unanimously.

- c. Board Calendar check-in - We are staying on track. We have to push the bank account back a bit, we are missing some information still. We are watching for the CSP grant to become available to apply for. We are on track with most activities, except we need to be more actively fund raising.

Motion to move to Board Development items - visitors Hunding; seconded by Odegard; motion carried unanimously.

- d. Visitors to board meetings - Discussion that our meetings need to allow visitors to speak at the first 5 min of the meeting and after that we need to compose our board in a professional manner. We need to limit the distractions and stay on task and follow our time limits for topics.

Motion to move to Board Development items - Code of conduct by Maki; seconded by Cox; motion carried unanimously.

- e. Code of Conduct and Oath of Office - Fjelstad read the Code of Conduct to the group and everyone liked it. We should institute this as a swearing in and read the code of conduct when board members begin. We will read this at the next meeting.

Motion to adopt the code of conduct and oath of office by Cox; seconded by Camacho; motion carried unanimously.

**Motion to end the meeting by Maki; seconded by Cox; motion carried unanimously.
Next meeting will be October 13 at 7pm. This will be on the google meet platform.**

Attachments:

August meeting minutes

Marketing Committee Minutes

Governance Committee Minutes

Sisu Board Calendar

Sisu Board Member Code of Conduct

Sisu Board Member Oath of Office