



Sisu Environmental School Board meeting December 15, 2021

Attendees: Kate Maki, Beth Odegard, Kendra Hunding & Courtney Cox

Visitors: no visitors

CC calls meeting to order at 7:00 PM

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

Reading of the Mission: Odegard

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

Check in - Take a look at Field Guide Summary, What are our strengths? What strengths are we missing (weaknesses) for our Board? How could we be stronger? According to the Leadership Compass, what are our working styles? What directions do we need for balance?

- Hunding: we notice that our current team lacks North and West individuals

These types of folks are more assertive, decision making folks in addition to analytical type thinkers. We should keep this in mind when recruiting future board members. Think we should have potential board members take this personality quiz in order to give us more information about their style, vibe, etc. We should attempt to be more "choosy" with our board recruitment if we can in order to form a strong and cohesive team.

- Odegard: has a few folks in mind to ask about being on various committees within our team. Discussed if they should take these quizzes. Team agreed it seemed useful for potential members to do so.

What Enneagram Types do we have on our Board?

What types would we prioritize recruiting to help us achieve our current goals?

Meeting Objectives:

- Finalize Admissions process with dates
- Approve Admissions/Enrollment policy
- Make a deadline for a facility decision
- Set a regular monthly (or weekly) Board meeting day and time
- Approve job descriptions
- Firm up plan for December event
- Make a plan for actively recruiting committee members

Call meeting to order: 7:00 PM

1. Consent Agenda - items are approved with one motion and vote with no discussion

- Approve agenda
- Approve last month's meeting minutes
- Approve Admissions/Enrollment policy

Maki makes motion to approve consent agenda

Cox seconds motion

Motion carries unanimously

2. Committee Reports - 15 minutes

Governance - Kendra & Jim

- New member recruitment
- Not a ton to report, more of discussions about more board member recruitment
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Marketing - Courtney or Kendra

- Met last week
- Next winter event next week
- Kendra ordered Sisu beanies
- Additional meeting next week to finalize winter event with weather, etc.
- Amazon Smile account is set up and ready to go

Outreach Task Force-

Reaching out through personal avenues
Sisu potential board member flyers
Beth is going to reach out to a few potential new committee members and send them the flyer

Facilities Task Force - Beth

- Beth and Kendra toured 3 buildings (Beth got to 2 buildings)
- Maplewood Building:
 - Has more outdoor space & more willing to work with us

Board Members Reflection on Maplewood Building:

- Hunding:
 - Like the outdoor space that is protected
 - Landlord is easy to work with and excited to have a school there
 - Not too expensive
 - Building works for our purposes
- Maki:
 - Cultural exposure that the building would bring is great
 - Convenient for families that live in the Como area and in Stillwater
 - Security systems still in place
 - Community nature center, walking paths, etc.
 - Exposure yet green space
- Odegard:
 - Like the landlord
 - Don't like that it's on the lower level - entrance seems weird to Beth
 - Feels very far
 - Green space is great: harder to find that we would like
- Cox:
 - Landlord seems cool
 - Outdoor space is nice

- Commute is far: minimum 40 minutes each way so cox would likely not be able to work at school
- Doesn't want to be the reason we don't get the building, just being realistic

Team needs to discuss and see what makes sense for the entire team and the future students. Not individual board members/staff.

Realistically Maki doesn't think that we can open in the fall if we don't have a physical location by January.

Most schools typically start enrollment/lotteries in November/December
 Need to be able to enroll
 Need to hire staff
 Need to train staff
 Need to order furniture
 Need to "stock" building

Maki states that we need to get this building process moving forward in order to start the rest of the opening processes.

- Mendota Heights:
 - Wasn't as willing to work with us
 - Outdoor space wasn't as nice
- Reached out to realtor about Eagan building
 - Waiting to hear from city of Eagan if school is allowed in the business park

Odegard motions to move on to board calendar check-in
 Hunding seconds
 Motion carries unanimously

3. Board calendar check-in

- Still need to find an attorney for our team
- Hunding wants to talk to Laurie about this and puts a self-defined deadline of having options ready by January 1st
- Form 9-90: Maki is working on this and sending it to Jim. Asking him to have it done by next week.
- Pretty on track with board calendar and timeline
- Still TBD on timeline for CSP Grant

Odegard motions to move on to action items
 Hunding seconds motion
 Motion carries unanimously

4. Action items

Motion to approve job descriptions: Odegard
 Maki seconds motion
 Motion carries unanimously

Action items (What?)	Who?	When?
Reach out to family and friends to maximize through a "tax deductible donation" to a 501 (c)3 to spend on marketing materials	All board members	ASAP
Research grant opportunities - make a spreadsheet to track action?	Board	Done https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1R5cA11h4_8PGCOZCgSEgXXu01iggJxl4EbNt15nDEzo/edit?usp=sharing
Develop job descriptions	Kendra & Kate	December 15th
Develop enrollment plan	Kendra & Kate	End of year Tentative enrollment rollout is January but may need a physical location for enrollment?

Look into Google Suite options for team. Is gmail free for non-profit?	Courtney	December 15th?
Refresh compliance requirements for website	Courtney with questions to Kate :)	
Amazon Smile	Beth	Done
Research business manager possibilities	Kendra	By January board meeting
Spread the word about AmazonSmile	Board	ASAP
Decision on Facility Options	All Board Members	Have a decision by Dec. 22nd, 2021.

Odegard motions to move on to fundraising updates
Hunding seconds

7. - Fundraising update

GoFundMe - \$480.00

Chipotle fundraising and other funds have been deposited into the Sisu bank account

Some funds are currently being allocated to marketing and outreach

Odegard motions to move on to Decemeber "Out in the Open" House Event
Cox seconds

8. December “Out in the Open” House event

Scheduled for December 30th from 1-4pm at South Valley Park in Inver Grove Heights

Hoping for it to be a sledding event
May need to pivot this plan: weather dependent

Next marketing meeting on December 21st will determine our plan

Motion to move on to scheduling next meeting
Odegard seconds

9. Schedule next meeting

Odegard suggests next meeting: tentatively plan for Thursday December 23rd @7pm

Motion to adjourn: Odegard
Cox seconds

Meeting adjourned at 8:07PM

Attachments:

November meeting minutes
Board calendar
Admissions/Enrollment Policy
Start up Coordinator job description
Operations Lead job description
Curriculum and Instruction Lead job description
Board Committee recruitment doc