

Germantown Virtual Charter School
Germantown, Wisconsin 53022
Minutes of the Governance Board
December 2, 2021

1. The meeting of the Governance Board was called to order by Board President Carrie Rowe in a virtual meeting at 5:05 PM. Carrie read the official meeting notification.

Roll call:

- Carrie Rowe, President - Yes
- Leslie Fee, Vice President - Yes
- Maureen Haeger, Secretary - Yes
- Open Position, Treasurer
- Russ Ewert, Member - Yes
- Scott Parsons, Member - No
- Maureen Fitzgerald, Member - Yes
- Maureen Brock, Member - Yes
- Cindy Collins, GVS Project Manager - Yes
- Julia Leeson - Director of Technology Curriculum (helping out due to Brenda's departure) - Yes
- Brett Stousland - Germantown School Superintendent - Yes
- Ellen Goltry - New! (to be considered for Treasure position)

2. Motion by Carrie Rowe, second by Maureen Haeger to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. **Summary of reports** (follow order of agenda).

- a. **Update from WRRCS** - they work with all charter schools in WI. He will come to our next meeting to give a 30 minute workshop for the Governance Board.
(<https://www.wrccs.org/>)
- b. **Update about Contract** - This is a pressing issue. In order to be on the open enrollment list this needs to be completed by the end of January 2022. Nick will work with us. Russ Ewert & Maureen Fitzgerald will head up the contract committee. Nick will lead the process and he can provide us templates for us to use. The Board of Education will need to approve this contract and agree to it. Keep in mind that this contract can change in the future (adjustments can be made).
- c. **Update on possible Treasurer position** - Ellen Goltry has expressed interest in this position. She will be added to the next agenda.
- d. **Update on Virtual Platform** - Cindy Collins recommends that we move forward with joining the e-network. Refer to the slide deck for information. We should decide soon to take advantage of all of their help including marketing. This will be put on the December 16th meeting agenda. Julia - agrees with this recommendation. Reach out to Julia with questions. We would start on Tier One (this changes based on the number of students enrolled in the virtual school).

4. Comments:

- a. **Germantown School District Emails for the Governance Board** Maureen Haeger asked about the update on our GSD emails. Maureen Fitzgerald did follow up with them. We are still waiting on the creation of our email addresses.
 - b. **Recording this meeting?** Russ Ewert asked if anyone thought of recording these meetings? It is a committee decision. Let's put it on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - c. **Potential Treasure, Ellen Goltry** - gave an introduction. Ellen has a degree in Finance and another undergraduate degree in Real Estate. She has spent her entire career in finance. Currently Ellen is a Commercial Underwriter for BMO Harris, and she has an extensive financial background. She has 3 kids in the district. This was followed by the governance board members giving their brief bios for Ellen's benefit. This included School Superintendent, Brett Stousland, giving a brief history of how GVS came about. He reminded us that as a charter school we have the ability to design a new program and leverage the Germantown School District resources. We should start simple yet have a vision of where we can take GVS.
 - d. Leslie Fee - During our last call, we mentioned that we need to understand what is it about GVS that sets us apart from other virtual schools? What is our competitive advantage?
 - i. **Germantown extracurricular activities** is very strong and has a solid reputation which is an advantage.
 - ii. Germantown have **excellent facilities** (for example the Shop labs) and virtual students would have access
 - iii. The **internships** and **project based learning** will be an advantage. The students will be out in the community and working with businesses and building a portfolio of skills above and beyond their core classes.
 - iv. The Governance Board can add in requirements for graduation which can make a unique advantage (an internship for example).
 - e. Brett mentioned that Germantown students should have the first chance to enroll and then open it up to others. If we have more enrollments, we may need to do a lottery and have a wait list.
 - f. Maureen Fitzgerald - why did 80+ students leave? Was research done? How many brick and mortar kids move to GVS? Per Brett, most left for COVID reasons and at a time when Germantown School District wasn't sure what the plan would be due to COVID. About half of the students returned. A few wanted flexibility, asynchronous. Virtual students will have requirements and they will need to meet a certain number of instructional minutes.
 - g. Advertising. We are on the GSD website. We will need help and guidance for advertising the GVS. There is a line item for marketing in the budget.
 - h. Our goal is 50 students per Brett. It was a suggestion from DPI Charter School members for a first year charter school. Start small, then expand. This will be determined by the governance board. We are hoping for a balance from 6-12 graders. High school begins registration in January 2022.
 - i.
5. Motion by Russ Ewert, second by Maureen Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2021 Governance Board meeting. Motion carried.

6. **Bi-laws** were written by Brenda O'brien. They do meet all of the requirements. We pulled up the bylaws and reviewed it as a group. A few discussions based on highlighted areas in the bylaws draft document:
 - a. 3 trustees and 9 members
 - b. Favor committee members over parents was omitted.
 - c. Attendance may be in-person or virtual - are we OK, yes.
 - d. Terms of office - one year
 - e. Financial matters, may authorize Germantown School District - should we change it to "shall"? It allows the GSD business office can help out.
 - f. Designate time in the school year. Should we omit "school" and so we meet for the entire year.
 - g. Annual meeting - vote for officer positions and provide a yearly report for the community and outlook for the next year.
 - h. Fiscal year starts July 1st.
 - i. Motion by Russ Ewert to approve the bylaws as written , second by Maureen Fitzgerald to approve..... Motion carried. All those in favor to approve the bylaws as written - all were in favor, none opposed. The bylaws were approved.

7. Maureen Fitzgerald motioned to adjourn, Leslie Fee seconded the motion. Board President Carrie Rowe declared the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm