

**Germantown Virtual School  
Governance Board Meeting  
Virtual Meeting [Link to Join:](#)**

**Dec 16, 2021**

**5:00 pm**

**Minutes**

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:02 pm by President by Carrie Rowe
- II. Attendees:
  - Cindy Collins
  - Brett Stousland
  - Julia Leeson
  - Carrie Rowe
  - Leslie Fee
  - Maureen Fitzgerald
  - Maureen Haeger
  - Nick Pretasky- guest speaker from WRRCS (see below)
  - Russ Ewert
  - Ellen Goltry
- III. Approval of Agenda – Carrie motioned to approve, seconded by Maureen Haeger
- IV. **Nick Pretasky** from **WRRCS** (<https://www.wrccs.org/>) gave a 30 minute workshop to the Governance Board. He works for an organization that works closely with DPI with all Charter Schools in WI. 248 charter schools in WI. Nick works with Governance Board. He shared slides. WRRCS is government funded to support Charter Schools.  
*Nick asked, “What are the indicators that we are a success?”*
  - We are open in the fall and we have 50 + enrolled students.
  - Having a healthy participation of the Germantown in person and virtual.
  - Having a diverse set of students and diverse set of offerings to draw more enrollment.
  - Having students to get more experience in the trades, having an apprenticeship during high school.
  - The future of what education will look like. From a business that is trying to support GSD (JW Speaker) it is important to see the relationship with local businesses.
  - It is important to articulate our mission well. If not, why? What do we need to meet the needs of our mission?

**Assumptions for Today:**

- Everyone is doing their absolute best
- No judgement
- Improvement will be needed

- Together we are stronger

### **Why does the Governance Board exist?**

- Represent the owners of the school (tax payers)
- Make sure the school accomplishes what owners want
- Ensure that things shouldn't occur, don't occur

Great schools are held to great expectations. Charter is a contracted school. In this contract, we spell out the details in the contract. The authorizer is Germantown School District School Board. We need to be specific about what is expected and the benefits for GSD.

### **Terms:**

**Bylaws** – internal governing documents for the Governance Board. Set of rules that tells the Governance Board operates.

**Charter Contract** – between the charter board and the authorizer (GSD)

**Policies** – a defined set of established expectations for specific behavior and norms by which a school is governed and managed. School policies guide the day-to-day functioning of the school as well as to make it safe and effective place for learning to occur. Most adopt the school district policies.

Regarding the contract, can we add on amendments? The answer is yes. Both sides need to sign the amendment and then it needs to be sent to DPI.

**Flow of Autonomy & Accountability** = the Federal Government – State of Wisconsin – Charter Authorizer – Governance Board. We need to follow the law and follow the contract.

Charter School – has to provide State Testing and Educator Effectiveness (teacher evaluation in the State of Wisconsin). Everything else is up for negotiation.

### **Roles & Responsibilities within a charter**

- Authorizer – Germantown School Board
- Governance Board - budget and student learning (fulfilling the mission).
- Look at other services as a “service provider”. Sometimes we use services that are part of the authorizer organization. Services are typically spelled out in the contract.

### **2 Most Important Items:**

- Student Learning
- Charter Finances

### **Other comments:**

- We need to have someone design the school. This is very important!
- Buy the right learning management system.
- Letting students, parents and community know about the school – promotion and the ability to enroll.
- How are the pupils learning / growing? (Reference 12 month planning document)
- What makes GVS unique?
- Nick recommends creating a planning (design) team

See Nick's PPT deck in the Google Drive -

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1T40Rqpvysl\\_sSjRvtQk3y3FQYVw8xxSgVuOjMKfIAxM/edit#slide=id.gb648c2cb1\\_0\\_475](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1T40Rqpvysl_sSjRvtQk3y3FQYVw8xxSgVuOjMKfIAxM/edit#slide=id.gb648c2cb1_0_475)

Nick's contact information:

**Nick Pretasky**

[npretasky@wrccs.org](mailto:npretasky@wrccs.org)

608-799-1537

V. Report(s)

- A. **Update from WRRCS/Cindy Collins** – Cindy and Julia met with Nick and are designing a basic outline and drafting some waivers. Cindy Collins will lead designing the virtual school and this will be a separate contract. This needs to be done in 14 days.
- B. **Update about Contract** - Contract Committee (Russ, Maureen F. & Julie) have been reviewing the contract. Look at the contract draft in the Google Drive. We need to finalize the contract and bring it to the GSD School Board. Present in February and get it approved in the seconded meeting in February. This means that the Governance Board would approve it end of January / early February.
- C. **Update from Julia Leeson**- We need an education committee. Maureen F. and Leslie, Julia and Cindy volunteered to be on this education committee. We may ask other GSD teachers to be on this committee to share their expertise. We will be getting a new shared Google drive for all to leverage. Cindy Collins volunteered to take this task. We will also need a Marketing Committee. Our benchmark document that goes with our contract was approved by our attorneys. Brett submitted our Charter School Annual Report on December 13, 2021. (This covered Jan. 1 – June 30, 2021 work but it needed to be submitted due to grant). This report is required by DPI. Charter School Identification document was completed and will be submitted along with the contract and the benchmark document to DPI. We need to verify who has the responsibility of the filling of the annual report. This will be a collaborative effort.

**Documents:**

- 1. Benchmark Document complete to go with our contract
- 2. Virtual School Charter Identification Document - completed and ready to be submitted to DPI (this and the contract allows us to be posted on the DPI website)
- 3. Charter School Authorizer Annual Report submitted 12/13.
- D. **Discussion about recording and posting meetings** – To stay consistent with the GSD School Board and to be helpful for the secretary to take minutes. This would be a good transparency item. The public could review the meeting videos. We will implement this at our next meeting in January.

VI. Comments

- A. *Russ* - the administration side, Cindy and Julia are the contacts. They share the responsibilities. Julia Leeson is representing of the authorizer (GSD School Board) and Cindy Collins is representing the school.
- B. *Leslie* – I would like to better understand what is being done and what the GVS Governance Board doing. Is there a master project plan? Yes. We are starting with the Education Committee. There is a project plan and Cindy will be in charge of the project plan. It was decided to add to the board package, a document that shows what we have accomplished as well as what needs to be done next. The planning year started on July 1, 2021.
- C. *Cindy & Julia* - The template meets DPI requirements but the waivers are what make GVS special. We need to work on the contract and the deadline for an approved contract by both parties by end of February.
- D. *All* - Carrie, Ellen, Russ and Leslie still do not have working GSD emails. Julia will reach out to the IT team to escalate this issue.
- E. *All* - We decided to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Cindy Collins will send out the Zoom Meeting invitations.

VII. Approval of Minutes

- A. December 2, 2021 Meeting – Maureen F. made a motion to approve, Russ seconded the motion. Everyone voted yes.

VIII. Discussion and Action to approve Ellen Goltry for the Treasurer position. Maureen H made a motion to approve and Maureen F. seconded. Everyone voted yes.

IX. Discussion and Action to approve GVS joining Wisconsin eSchool Network. Maureen H. motion to approve, Carrie second the motion to approve. Everyone voted yes.

X. Discussion and Action to approve Contract to pay Cindy Collins as Project Coordinator. Maureen F. made the motion to approve, Ellen Second the motion. All voted yes.

XI. The meeting was adjourned by Carrie Rowe at 6:54 pm.