



Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 2, 2023  
4:30 – 6:00pm

## AGENDA

VMA's priority target- 60% of our Suns being at or above grade level by the end of the school year.

### **4:30 Call to Order**

Mission Moment - Janjay

### **4:35 Naiema: Opening Comments & Chair's Report**

- Welcome & Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes
- Chair Report
- Approvals:
  - Reunification Plan
- Communications and Committee reporting structure – see template

### **4:45 Janjay: Student Achievement Report**

- Monthly Goals & Updates
- Charter Renewal Updates/Feedback

### **5:15 Laura: Sustainability**

- Development
- Dream Lunch Follow Up – Board Support
- Board Member Giving- Goal vs Actual
- Shine On – Board Support

### **5:35 Finance: Earnest**

### **6:00 Adjournment**

***Join ZOOM Meeting***

<https://zoom.us/j/91351828158>

Meeting ID: 913 5182 8158



Executive Board Meeting | Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
In person at VMA Campus and online via published ZOOM link  
4:40pm – 6:09pm | MINUTES

**Members Present: (in person)** Naiema Frieson, Chair. Members Marilyn Kline, Betsy Friedman, Jeff Meyer, Earnest Wilks, Tara Sall, Janet Taylor, Greg Vogel as Faculty Representative.

**Online:** Melissa Dunlap, Ron Brock. A quorum is established.

**Members Absent:** Ron Johnson

**Guests Attending:** (in person/online)

Dr. Janjay Gehndyu, Principal, Jackie Gehnydu, faculty. Laura Randall, Michael Ayres, VMA Development. Chair Frieson called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM

Recording inaudible (Minutes 00:01 – 09:30)

Naiema praised Dr. Jim Cash for his inspiring talk at the 2023 Dream Lunch and expressed how much the guests enjoyed seeing our VMA Suns at the event. The next Dream Lunch is scheduled for October 9, 2023, and asked the board to discover options for a dynamic speaker to present at that event.

Shine ON! 2023 is scheduled for April 15. Efforts are underway to discover a co-chair, in addition to Dr. Janet Taylor, to lead the event.

Ms. Frieson praised the academic gains achieved since the beginning of the school year and commented that the SDMC (School District of Manatee County) is aware of the gains and reacted positively on the increases.

She was also pleased, considering the absence of prior experience in school leadership, on the professional gains made by Dr. Gehndyu in recent months. It has been recommended that VMA engage a mentor to support Dr. Gehndyu in his leadership efforts. Judy Laurent, former principal at Daughtrey Elementary and Educational Leadership Consultant is being considered to assume a paid consultant opportunity at VMA. Marilyn K. knows Ms. Laurent and expounded on her qualifications.

Ms. Frieson stated that there is approximately two months of operating capital in the bank account, and while this is the historical norm for VMA, both she and the district are concerned that there is no operating reserve funds. Naiema suggests that the board and the finance committee come to an agreement about developing and maintaining adequate cash reserves and optimizing expenses for times when inflow of revenue does not meet outflow needs.

Recruitment strategies continue to be developed to enroll more students and ease some of the burden of intermittent cashflow.

Donors who made capital gifts to support the Field of Dreams project have been contacted to request meetings to discuss the status and disposition of their gifts to the now-cancelled capital project.

Reunification Plan Adopted: Dr. Gehndyu described an overview and details of the newly developed VMA 'Reunification Plan', previously submitted to the board for review, that provides methods and communication strategies among affected constituents (i.e., students, parents, staff, response officials, etc.) for mitigating challenges to a disruption in the school day due to an unforeseen emergency event.

A motion was made by Chair Frieson to accept the Reunification Plan as written and was seconded by Ms. Kline. A unanimous vote was recorded.

A motion was made by Chair Frieson to accept the minutes of the January 2023 Executive Board meeting and seconded by Meyer. The motion passed unanimously.

Principal's Update on Achievement:

Dr. Gehndyu began his comments with an endorsement of the mentorship that is being developed to assist him in augmenting his leadership skills.

The discussion moved to the monthly update on student achievement. Principal Gehndyu begins his report on news of VMA boys participated in a robotics event and placed 60<sup>th</sup> out of 180 entrants which is exceptional.

He reports on increases on students at grade level for reading over last year. 75% of K-2 students are currently at grade level for reading versus 25% one year ago, with significant decreases in lag rates for student below grade level for reading (15% currently vs 60% one year ago). Additionally, 90% of students are on grade level for Math versus 15% one year ago.

In grades 3-4-5 all students are showing growth in reading (in local testing). 3<sup>rd</sup> grade - 82% of students showed growth of an average of 120 points. 4<sup>th</sup> grade – 60% of students showed growth of an average of 70 points; 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 100% of students showed growth of an average of 90 points. We are on track to achieve our internal goal of having 60% of testing level students on grade level with 8 students testing at grade level for the current year versus only three students at the same time last year.

Attendance rates are still high at 95%. Three new students were enrolled in January 2023. Dr. Gehndyu mentioned several student events upcoming in February which are reflected on the VMA school calendars. Dr. Gehndyu is reaching out to the PAC committee to try to get additional involvement in events & meetings.

(inaudible crosstalk 00:52:15 -00:56:40 )

Development Report. Laura Randall discussed the success of the 2023 Dream Lunch and expressed the need for thorough stewardship to reach out to the donor attendees to thank them for their participation in the event. The board is asked to help in the outreach and will be provided a list and talking points to assist in the process. Revenue is still being calculated, but it is expected that the event will earn around \$100K with approximately \$18K-\$20K in expenses.

Randall is developing some small, 'no-ask' events for donors and prospects to get to know/know better VMA and will ask board members to volunteer to host the events. Shine ON! 2023 is at Michaels on East on April 15 and will ask board members to step up with asks to friends & colleagues for sponsorships, tickets, tables, event planning/volunteer opportunities.

Financial Report. Earnest Wilks discussed the financial condition of VMA as described in the documents sent to the board prior to the board meeting. He reported that expenses are down due to curtailed spending and some changes (decreases) in staffing expenses. He stressed the need for everyone to be aware that fundraising is a significant part of the VMA financial profile along with increases in enrollment.

Randall brought up the idea of developing an annual business plan suggesting that it could reassure funders that VMA has meaningful benchmarked goals.

Crosstalk (largely inaudible) about fundraising ideas and the revenue gap (01:16:25 – 01:24:55)

Tara Sall (conversation inaudible)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 6:03 PM