



**Visible Men Academy**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 4, 2023  
4:30PM – 5:30PM

**AGENDA**

- I. Welcome and Roll Call- Naiema Frieson-Board Chair**  
Approval of minutes from September 6 & 21, 2023 meeting
- II. Mission Moment- Dr. Janjay Gehndyu**
- III. Board Chair Report – Naiema Frieson- Board Chair**
  - a. ACT Welcome
  - b. Melissa Morsili- Love Lunch
  - c. Director of Development Job Description
- IV. Melissa Dunlap & Marilyn Kline- Development, Communications, & Grant Writing**
- V. The State of the School Report –Dr. Janjay Gehndyu, School Principal**
  - a. Charter Renewal update
  - b. Progress Monitoring Local and State level K-2 & 3-5
  - c. Accounts Receivable
- VI. Finance- Earnest Wilks**
  - a. Audit update
- VII. Field of Dreams update-Louis**
- VIII. New Business**
- VII. Meeting Adjourned**



Executive Board Meeting | Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023  
4:30pm – 6:30pm | MINUTES

The board meeting was held part in-person at VMA and part via Zoom.

Board Members Present

Naiema T. Frieson, Board Chair  
Melissa Dunlap, Development Chair (Zoom)  
Marilyn Kline (Zoom)  
Jeff Meyer (Zoom)  
Louis Parker, Founder & Board Member Emeritus  
Willitone Petit, Treasurer  
Janet Taylor (Zoom)  
Earnest Wilks (Zoom)

Board Members Absent

Dilicia Navarro, Parent Representative  
Tara Sall (just had a baby)  
Greg Vogel, Teacher Representative

Staff Present

Janjay Gehndyu

Guests

Christine Jennings  
Michael Shelton

Naiema Frieson called meeting to order

Mission Moment (Janjay Gehndyu)

Janjay shared a mission moment by sharing a student's story. Students came to VMA, left, and came back. Student said he felt like a number when at the other school. VMA felt more like a family.

#### 1. Board Chair Report (Naiema)

Working a lot on Development Department:

- Job Descriptions for new and vacant positions
- Researching a new CRM to potentially replace Donorperfect
- Improving PR efforts

Welcomed Mr. Willitone Petit

#### 2. Love Lunch (Naiema Frieson)

- Love Lunch is progressing well and Naiema thanked and her co-chair Melissa Morsli
- Lowes is the lead sponsor
- Naiema and Melissa encouraged board members to at minimum sponsor a table and bring their colleagues and friends

#### 3. ACT: Naiema welcomed ACT (Christine Jennings, Michael Shelton, and Sheila Weiss)

- Christine and Michael introduced themselves and shared their gratitude for the welcome they have received and the tour they experienced the day before.
- Christine shared Sheila's background and her regrets for being unable to attend the meeting.
- Christine said ACT are very impressed with VMA and are looking forward to working with the board on governance issues and fundraising in particular.

#### 4. State of the School report (Janjay Gehndyu)

- Shared dashboard of school and student goals, metrics, and milestones
- Charter renewal application going well and near completion
- Internet was a negative in last report and has been remedied this year
- Transportation as well was an issue and has been remedied this year
- Key Chorale from LWR high School? visited earlier this month for an enrichment experience for suns
- Busy month: Trunk or Treat Oct 31, Love Lunch 10/31, Honor Roll 10/20, Town Hall Oct 17
- Lunch on Oct 12 (check date) with VMA alums who are attending ODA. A very positive event. One VMA alum stated the thing he remembers most about VMA is learning integrity.
- 97% attendance rate

- Reviewed "Accounts Receivables at a Glance" prepared by Lori. Said numbers speak for themselves; also pointed out the district gives about \$45k per year (\$3,744 monthly) in "capital outlays" for as a result of VMA achieving C grade level status.
- Louis Parker shared the boys they had lunch with included the Clark brothers who have a story of overcoming great adversity.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report (Earnest Wilks)

- Audit has been completed and was clean

- Expenses exceeded revenue due to enrollment and development
- Welcomed Willitone and thanked him in advance for his finance expertise he brings to the board

#### 6. Field of Dreams Report (Louis Parker)

- Louis spoke with Mark Barnebey (attorney repping VMA) who advised no word from the county which is good news and/or bad news in that:

- ~ they have not asked for the land back in 90 days
- ~ VMA has a permit request in for the concrete slab we need first, as well as a permit request in for the first classroom

~ Reverter clause says we needed a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) by 9/30/2023 to satisfy avoid the land reverting back to the county

~ Louis asked Mark B. if we should put up a sign such as "Future Home of Visible Men Academy"; Mark said he wouldn't advise that right now

~ Louis said it would be good for us to do something with the land while it is totally vacant, like have the kids play football and other games on it; to do that it needs clearing, grass mowed, etc. and he has obtained a firm to do this work pro bono.

- ~ they have not given any encouragement
- ~ they have not given any encouragement

#### 7. New Business

- Naiema called for any new business and there was none.

- Naiema closed the meeting by sharing that she has been in town and able to be at VMA a lot this week and has received very positive feedback for her visibility. In turn, she encouraged the board to also be intentional about being visible at the school. Melissa shared similar sentiments and experiences and encouraged board members to bring friends/colleagues to VMA as well.

Meeting adjourned after 1 hour, 9 minutes.