



**November 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 Board of Directors and Advisory Committee Meeting Hosted by: Augusta County Public Schools held at 7AM - Valley Career and Technical Center 49 Hornet Road Fishersville, VA 22939**

**Attending: Andrew Deitz, Angie Whitesell Whitesell, Katie Ford, Dr. Garrett Smith, Dr. Patricia Devitt, Tina Kiracofe, Kelly Hartley, Carla Vandevander, Tara Todd, Elizabeth Shreckhise, Melissa Martin, Dr. Lee Ann Whitesell, Jody Hardy, Dr. Jeffrey Cassell. Guest Speaker: Ms. Kristin Beery**

VAE members were treated to a delightful array of pastries put together by Valley Career and Technical Centers Culinary arts department prior to the start of the meeting. VAE President, Katie Ford welcomed VAE members and guests to the last board meeting of 2022 noting it has been a good year for VAE.

Dr. Eric Bond, Superintendent for Augusta County Public Schools, was introduced and asked to say a few words about our guest speaker. Dr. Bond welcomed VAE members to VCTC and noted that this facility serves all three local school districts and is a "jewel in the valley". The VCTC is for advanced learners in all seven local high schools. VCTC continues to grow and develop programs that introduce and educate local students for highly desired careers many that are located here in the Shenandoah Valley. He also recognized Dr. Lee Ann Whitesell, Director of VCTC for her wonderful leadership.

Dr. Bond then introduced our guest presenter and 2022 Creative Classroom Grant winner Kristin Beery. Dr. Bond said "Kristin Beery - takes full advantage of VAE Grant opportunities, in fact she won 2 for the current year and has won multiple others in the past."

Ms. Beery thanked VAE for the grant opportunities and says she has enjoyed all the grants, she then listed her previous grants and provided updates. Her previous grants are as follows:

- Barnyard Bonanza – provided a 10x 20 barn and allows collaboration with the vet science program at VCTC.
- Oysters – 400 oyster spats from Rappahannock were purchased, students could learn as they grow and develop. She has future ideas to develop this grant even farther.
- Are you Kidding Me – 4 does, 1 billy, 1 buddy, has provided students with lots of entertainment & life lessons -- new kids which should be arriving soon.
- Trout in the Classroom – Hatched eggs in October and release in May
- Aquaponics – provided 38 orange/black tilapia, she is also able to collaborate with VA State University.

Her current grants:

**Crazy for Chickens/Hot Chics** – will be doing a test run hatching several chickens this week. Students have been researching unique breeds of chickens. Once they evaluate this process, they will plan another hatch date.

**Veering towards Viticulture** – Students will plant 1/3 of the field in February, this project will help prepare students for the next generation of Vineyard management. Which is a fast-growing agriculture industry in Virginia. While her students are learning the science behind the grapes and the growing process, they will not be creating alcohol but high-end grape juice.

Katie and the members thanked Kristin for her presentation and shared how much we appreciated the collaboration she does with other departments in VCTC, ultimately enhancing more students' hands on experience. We then proceeded to the business portion of our meeting:

Katie asked VAE Treasurer, Jody Hardy, to present his report referring to the financial reports that were previously distributed to all members. Jody thanked members for actively participating in the QCMM festival which raised just over \$3,000 – that's 2 full grants! He said, "thanks to our successful fund-raisers, we are ahead of last year". He was extremely proud that last year VAE was able to fund additional grants and expects that if we are successful with the 2023 Gold Tournament, we can again meet the same expectations. VAE also received a generous donation from the Dawbarn Foundation Estate Fund II that is overseen by The Community Foundation of Central Blue Ridge in the amount of \$ 11 and was deposited on

Tonia Garman gave the Public Relations Committee report – Suzie Dull had a work conflict and is unable to attend today's meeting. \* Newsletter articles need to be submitted ASAP – they are working to develop the layout so it can be presented to the printer soon and mailed by December 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 for year end donations. Discussion was held on the Holiday lights display at Gypsy Hill Park which will begin Nov. 2 and run through Jan 2, 2023.

Secretary, Sharon Killen shared that Liz Fravel, who was not able to attend, had received a quote from Converge about creating a vinyl board/banner that would attach to our book frame and could be used for years to come as it is weatherproof. Melissa Martin, who is with Converge told us the quote she provided Liz was \$350. Andrew Deitz made a motion that we move forward to have the display panels made for use at the holiday lights event. Jody Hardy seconded the motion – no questions or discussion was necessary, and all members present voted yes to the motion. Motion was approved: Melissa will get the panels ordered and let Sharon/Liz know when they are ready for pick up. Katie noted the mission behind this project is to make the community aware of VAE and to provide website information for educators to be able to access the grant instructions and application.

The Education Excellence Committee Chairperson Patricia Devitt is working with Miriam at the Community Foundation to make the grant application less confusing and more user friendly. She hopes these minor changes will encourage more teachers to apply, she also spoke with the Superintendents about ways she can reach the teachers directly to answer questions and encourage them to complete an application. The 2023-24 application will go live on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. She also asked members to volunteer and or help her find people willing to read and evaluate the grant applications next spring.

Business Education, Andrew Deitz shared that the committee will need a interim chairperson since Chris will need some time away to attend to family matters. He said he and Sharon were planning to work on the local funding applications and make sure they were all submitted on time.

Andrew Deitz and Angie Whitesell attended last nights Dawbarn Awards ceremony on behalf of VAE and both commented on how wonderful it was to see so many dedicated people in our community recognized for their service.

New business: Jody Hardy and Sharon Killen shared that they had met with Mike Miriello, Downtown Creative who now hosts the VAE website. Mike indicated the price would be increasing from \$900 annually to \$1080 annually. Mike reviewed our needs and determined VAE does not need such a complex site and suggested that VAE switch to a stand-alone site which would be simpler to maintain in house. He quoted \$3000-3500 to rebuild the site for VAE keeping the same domain name. Discussion was held about the feasibility of Tonia's contact being interested/able to complete this work at a much more discounted rate, was decided to continue the talks until we could get further information.

Four new members bios were previously sent out for review, all four attended the meeting, Katie welcomed them, and Andrew Deitz made a motion we approve all four as our newest board of director members, Angie Whitesell Seconded the motion and all in attendance voted enthusiastically YES – VAE members welcomed each of them to our board of directors. We are confident they will all be great additions.

Katie will schedule a new member orientation soon and members can select the committee in which they would like to serve on.

Our next BOD meeting will be hosted by Waynesboro City Public Schools – in February of 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52am

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sharon Killen VAE Administrative Assistant/Secretary