

**Minutes  
Parent Meeting Verdi Eco School  
February 22 2018  
Highland House**

**Call to order: 17.39**

**If interested on being on the school board please e-mail.  
Volunteering need: Nature immersion 9-12  
Shed Relocation  
Spring break: April 2nd- 6th for cleaning, painting, general maintenance  
Minutes etc. to archived for all to access  
Volunteer hours We. & Sa. 3.3—5pm  
Next meeting date: Every month Thursday March 15th  
Kentucky Derby Fundraiser Friday May 4th: Wood is needed to get this fundraiser started  
(2x3 foot by 1/2 inch panels to be cut on hydrojet, marine or birch plywood)  
Lucky's bag for change - please reach out to Carrie for volunteering  
Sunday: Demolition of a house at 395 Holman Road, Cape Canaveral 10am  
Facebook - Join the Verdi-EcoSchool**

Ayana welcoming families.

This time a year parents have to choose if they would like to recommit to the school for the coming school year. Parents vote on new curriculum items:

**School Calendar 18/19:**

1. Approving the school year calendar for next year. Targeted vs. immersive instruction.

2018-2019 = 6 weeks targeted and 2 weeks immersive.

6 weeks targeted = project based learning e.g. math through garden plots, tangible instructions

2 weeks = elective exploration: exploring by pulling in with experts from various backgrounds and the community.

NO questions from the parents

**Summer extension** starts June 4th - August 3rd. Last day of school is May 25th. There is a break till June 4th as well as after August 3rd. Those breaks give teachers a time to prepare for school. Summer camps fund the school throughout the year.

Summer extension is part of the next school year. So please let administration know if you enroll at Verdi-School for the next year. Parents can choose 3 electives (4 are offered in total) and a month during the summer. Parents outside the school can try the school out that is why it is important to know who of the enrolled families are participating in the summer program.

July 4th - that week the school is closed for 1 week.

**Calendar was sent out in weekly recap.**

**Educators update:**

The educators will be leading the first weeks of pbl, the last 2 weeks are led by outside experts. That gives the Verdi educators 1 weeks to prepare and 1 week off.

### **Nature Immersion:**

Summer: new stuff comes in to cover the summer extensions. Educators who have been at the school in the past or familiar with. If the educators are new, they will be put in the schedule for all of us to get to know them.

Volunteering always welcome also during the summer months,

### **Rise in tuition for next school year:**

approx. 3.5% tuition rise - \$8.755 Kiga - 8th grade; Homeschool flex: 3 days (MO, TU, WE) the current schedule targeted course work happens on these days and in 2017 the homeschool flex are left out. Parents schedule will be honored. Add on days can be purchased extra e.g. farm day \$140/month for farm day. Nature immersion: full-time MO-FR \$800/month. There are different break down for the calendar, but increase in tuition is about 3.5%. Materials & Zoo & Foosaner membership are also required for the next year. By the end of March families need to pay the deposit to ensure the place for the next year. It is a lesser rate than previously. Foosaner is staying till 2021.

### **Finances:**

The school is running in the red. The Verdis are funding a lot of the financial needs. The school is not at max. Enrollment (except nature immersion - waiting list) The upper school can still take in 15 more kids - that money in tuition is missing.

**Satellite school** might be at the Brevard Zoo for nature immersion. This is where the nature immersion would be instead of the Highland house. Partnering with the ZOO would be very helpful as it gives access to a new school population. Nature Immersion is the most profitable part of the school.

### **New Property**

The school has been offered to purchase the property next door (therapist house with large garden)

The school needs an organized fundraiser in order to pay for the property and for future opportunities. The offer \$400/ month use of back building (incl. bathroom) and farm the garden, that rent would be used as a down payment. The property is 1/2 acre. The house is \$195.000. An extra \$10/month for down payment/ monthly rent. Parents would like to participate at a committee to be able to pay for the house next door.

Parent discussion of fundraiser efforts, grant writing etc.

### **IRL starts in March:**

Miss Montana leads the excursion, marine biologist, running a study etc.

### **Safety drills:**

Keeping the school community safe when moving through the community and when in different locations. John leads drills focusing on what to do to stay safe. Certain words will signal the kids certain information. The drills are focused to bring kids to safety.

“Code” signals to lay down.

Silent symbol “one arm up and other arm pointing down” signals getting in line.

The kids are trained to listen what is said to each other, conflict resolution. When out in the open, kids need to be aware of what is happening around them. Noticing cars, poles, people. Kids needing to keep heads up and being engaged. The focus is on having the kids safe and that language is used to inform the kids about the purpose of the drills.

“Hu-Ha” - kids come running in.

Parent concern: cameras, communication with parents in case of emergency. Buzzer at the front door. Fences and Gates to be 8 foot tall/ no visibility fence.

Currently the school permit is being processed so the permit for the fence can not be pulled yet. This is where a fundraiser could come into place.

Brightwheel will be the point of communication in case of an emergency and to know where the children are. Parents MUST be up to date with the app brightwheel. Keeping the school look like a welcoming school vs. penitentiary.

### **Lunch and learn**

Inviting experts, business people, passionate individuals to talk during the lunch talk. If parents are interested or if you know someone please come.

### **Board Meeting**

February 27th at 4.30pm.

Agenda: Financial report