

2021 AGM

Victoria German School Minutes

Date: November 8, 2021

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Present: Werner Simbeck, Christina Knowles, Anahita Ariana, Marcus Schlag, Trevar Pearce, Monika Brandstaetter, Debbie Sherwood, Ralf (Director), Elke Schlufter, Mike Stevens, Stefan Dollinger, Debbie Nussbaum

Recorder: Christina Knowles

I. Welcome and Greetings

- Introduction by Werner Simbeck

II. President's Report

- Werner gave the historical background of the School. VGS is a not-for-profit and our goal is to break even from a financial aspect.
- The school year of 2020/2021 was the 40th year of the Victoria German School. However, due to COVID we postponed all of our celebrations.
- The goal is to help children foster the German language and cultural aspect of their heritage.
- We are partnered with the ZfA (Zentralstelle fuer Auslandschulwesen) and supported by PASCH.
- VGS is also a good place to connect with other German speaking families to keep up the language and culture.

III. Director's Report

- Ralf reported out on pre-COVID school, which happened at UVic. During the Pandemic we are now at St. Patrick's elementary school, a facility which we quite like as the rooms are more child friendly. The consensus is that we would like to move back to UVic if we can, however, this would all remain to be seen.
- Our student numbers for this school year have increased and we now have 91 students (76 last year).

- Usually our school hosts and participates in a variety of events such as the Laternenfest, Weihnachtsfest etc. This year we will not have an in person Weihnachtsfest due to COVID.
- Class Structure: Ralf explained the structure of the school and how the children are 'sorted' into the various grade levels. The children can study towards various Diploma. The DSD II Diploma will allow the successful student to attend a university in Germany. Also, students can get high school credits for their language school attendance.
- Our school provides language classes not only to children but also to adults and they can attain a Sprachdiploma. We are the only school on the island which provides a Sprachdiploma to children. Unfortunately, our school cannot administer the DSDII or similar exams to adult students. The Sprachdiploma would not entitle a student to attend a university in Germany.
- VGS puts on Weihnachtsfest, Sommerfest and Osterfest. Our students also work towards and often attend Laternenfest, although this is not organized by our school. Laternenfest is held on November 11th 2019.

IV. Business Arising from the Minutes of last year

- Nothing arising

V. Treasurer's Report

Monika Brandstaetter presented the Profit/Loss statement for the year 2020/21.

- Our Opening balance going into last school year was \$124,328.19+ Net Income loss of \$20,000 → opening balance for current year was \$102,845.49 Monika was explaining our Income sources and Expense sources.
- The Board had set aside 3 restricted contingency funds of \$25,000 each for a total of \$75,000

A summary of the major points:

- Our income sources are mainly tuition (61%) and a big part of our funding comes from the German Government and made up about 32% of our overall income stream.
- Our expenses are mainly salaries – 72% of our annual expenses go to salaries for teachers, director and our administrator. Other main expense this year was rent 16% in comparison to 1% over the last years. Other expenses are books and supplied and event expenses. Last years rent expense was \$14,984.88. Current rent expenses are

expected to be similar or lower. Even though we have more in person classes, our rental cost over all is lower.

- Our total income was \$78,457.55. Our total expenses were \$99,079.84 which left us with a Net Income loss of \$20,622.29.

VI. Other Issues

- Room bookings and a potential return to UVic were discussed. The Board noted that we should engage with the appropriate department at UVic to start discussions about a return to the university.
- Laternenfest on November 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
 - Reminder to drop off the tents at Werner's house. There will be hot cider and Brezeln on offer. The Mount Royal Bagel Factory would be willing to donate Bagels for the event.

VII. Election of New Board Members

- Werner Simbeck – elected as president by acclamation
- Anahita Ariana elected as Vice-President by acclamation
- Monika Brandstaetter elected as Treasurer by acclamation
- Christina Knowles elected as Secretary by acclamation
- Marcus Schlag elected as Member at Large
- Trevar Pearce as Member at Large
- Mike Stevens as Member at Large
- Stefan Dollinger as Member at Large

VIII. Questions & Closing Remarks

- Meeting Adjourned:
Motion by Trevar Pierce
Seconded by Marcus Schlag

IX. Next AGM – TBA

- Beginning of October 2022

X. Next Board Meeting

- Agenda for next Board Meeting: Finalize Ralf's contract for Director position.
- **Next Board Meeting: December 6, 2021 @ 7:30 p.m.**