



Victoria German School

AGM Meeting Minutes – *Draft*

2 November, 2024 / 10:00 am / University of Victoria

Attendees	<p>Werner Simbeck, Tamino Yueksel, Sophie Bekes, Arelia Schoeneberg, Torsten Schoeneberg, Alejandra Hergert, Ben Hergert, Stefan Dollinger, Ruth Dollinger, Heather Hollman, Dirk Hollman, Erica Emmerich, Orion Emmerich</p> <p>Ralf Gabriel - Director, Debbie Sherwood - Administrator</p> <hr/>
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President's welcome• Director's report• Treasurer's report• Election of new board members• Date of next board meeting <hr/>
Action Items	<p>1) Action item – Stefan will produce fliers about VGS to distribute at St Martin event, November 11</p> <hr/>
Minutes	<p>Motion by <i>Stefan</i> to approve 2023 AGM minutes, seconded by <i>Torsten</i>; Carried</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President's welcome and good-bye – Werner addressed the group and gave an overview of the school's history - see accompanying PowerPoint for report. Werner was thanked for his continuous leadership over the past years.• Director's report – Ralf - see accompanying PowerPoint for report<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Of note: Enrollment numbers are similar to last year; there are 8 youth classes this year compared to 11 last year○ VGS has three new teachers; Christian, Christine and Stefan○ After 2024, PASCH will no longer exist○ Sprachbeihilfe (German government financial support) has been significantly decreased, not just for VGS, but all schools in Western Canada• Treasurer's report – Tamino reviewed breakdown of annual revenues and expenses. See accompanying PowerPoint for details<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2023/24 Balance Sheet and Income Statement were printed and distributed to attendees for review○ Tamino gave an overview of the VGS' financial environment over the past 5 years, to illustrate the impact Covid-19 had on the school.



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- Especially given the decreased financial support from the German Government, there was some discussion about securing the financial health of the school for the future.
- Arelia raised the point that as a charitable organization, VGS can issue charitable receipts for donations, and that feature should be promoted.
- Discussion about other fundraising efforts, e.g. approaching German-based businesses
- Stefan raised the point that the staff works very hard and is being paid at outdated wage levels, and new board should consider staff wages.
- Arelia asked about measuring the satisfaction health of the school, whether the teachers and parents are happy. Stefan reminded attendees that Deborah set up a survey in 2019. If a new survey was developed and distributed, data from both surveys can be compared. General support to solicit more feedback from parents and teachers.
- Discussion about low turnout to meetings, like the AGM. Suggestion to print notices to give to children, and also to ensure important messages are sent to both parents via email.
- Suggestion to include calendar event with email, or attach calendar.
- Question about exploring free advertising, like a poster to put up at St Barnabas church during their events.
- **Action item** – Stefan will produce fliers about VGS to distribute at St Martin event
- Suggestion about ways to encourage families or parents to get together more often, such as more coffee mornings
- Discussion about alternative methods to reach families, besides email, such as Whatsap groups

Motion by *Tamino* to approve 2023/24 financial statements, seconded by *Werner*,
Carried

- **Election of new board members**

- Discussion about number of directors comprising VGS board, vs members, and how many to reach a quorum at each meeting. The constitution states a minimum of 5 directors.

2024 – 2025 VGS Board of Directors:

President – Deborah Weber

Vice-President – Torsten Schoeneberg



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Treasurer – Tamino Yueksel

Secretary – Alejandra Hergert

Members at Large – Trevar Pearce, Orian Emmerich

- **Date of next board meeting** - *tba*

Motion by Alejandra to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm

DRAFT