

Education Committee of the Board of Trustees
Saturday, August 9, 2025
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Walker Lecture Hall



Present In-Person:	Ms. Lauren Hall Ms. Cathy Hincker	Ms. Christy Deatherage (Education Manager) Ms. Jennifer Whitlow (Staff)
Absent:	Mr. Nathan Sanford	Ms. Emma Ito

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Deatherage called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. It was determined that no quorum exists, therefore no votes can be conducted.

EDUCATION UPDATES

Ms. Deatherage reported that the number of people served was up in the final quarter. May was especially busy with end of the school year field trips. Ms. Deatherage reported that educators find Wilson Park and the basement classrooms are utilized during field trips for lunches. The new education pavilion is another location that can be used as weather permits.

Ms. Deatherage further reported about the activities and community involvement in the fourth quarter. Educators assisted students to complete a variety of activities including creating a seed ball, partnered with Rooted in Martinsville (Martinsville Tree Board) for a tree give-away Earth Day event and our educators hosted a Teacher Appreciation Event for local teachers to highlight the resources of the museum.

The fourth quarter Reptile Festival was a success with education staff interacting with students and numerous youth volunteers. Ms. Deatherage noted that Homeschool students also volunteered for the event.

The summer program has just wrapped up and was enjoyed in four different weeks over the summer season. Ms. Deatherage reported that because of donated funds, scholarships were available to six students. Two programs concluded their week with a field trip. Transportation to and from field trips are handled by museum vans or this year rental of a larger vehicle. Ms. Hall mentioned checking with local daycare services to see if buses or vans may be available.

Ms. Deatherage also mentioned that regular outreach with after school sites or MHC After 3, and YMCA occurred during the summer.

Rosemary Wagner shadowed Ms. Deatherage this summer with a couple of programs in Waynesboro. A new brochure focusing on the educational programs available in the Waynesboro area is in development. Ms. Wagner is a retired educator and lives in Waynesboro.

Lastly, education staff partnered with Fairy Stone State Park for National Kids in the Park Day.

FUNDING SOURCES UPDATE

Ms. Deatherage highlighted several pending and ongoing funding sources.

Museum staff applied for a \$10,000 Monogram Foods Loves Kids Foundation grant. This grant is pending.

Henry Co and Martinsville City supported education programs in their 2025-2026 budget with funding at their usual rate.

The museum was awarded \$5000 from the Edgar A. Thurma Charitable Foundation for Children.

Boxley Materials provided \$5000 with \$3500 going to educational scholarships. The remainder will be used to support other programming.

Ms. Deatherage reminded the committee that she contacts schools, principals, etc. in the local area to notify them that grant monies are available. Museum staff continually seek and apply for educational grants to offset the cost of programming for children.

The last Ceasars Foundation grant was a partnership with Danville Science Center and was not approved. But the museum will submit more grant applications to the Ceasars Foundation as opportunities arise.

Ms. Deatherage adjourned the meeting at 9:34 AM.