

Education Committee of the Board of Trustees
Saturday, February 1, 2025
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Walker Lecture Hall

Present: Mr. Nathan Sanford (Chair)
Ms. Gail Vogler (Foundation Liaison)
Ms. Christy Deatherage (staff ex officio)
Ms. Jennifer Whitlow (minutes)

Absent: Ms. Emma Ito
Ms. Lauren Hall

Mr. Nathan Sanford called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed all in attendance. No quorum was present therefore no votes could be taken.

EDUCATION UPDATES

- Ms. Deatherage reported that numbers served at the museum are up this quarter. Primarily this is attributed to an engineering design program conducted with all City of Danville 5th graders. Science and Math SOLs were incorporated into this program.
- The *Night with Santa* was a successful partnership with Martinsville Henry Co United Way. Donated 150 books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- Ms. Deatherage noted that numbers are getting back to pre-pandemic and seeing a broader range of visitors.
- Engaged with 20 youth volunteers at the Bonez and Booz event.
- Educational programming continues with the Boys and Girls Club and After School programs including YMCA partnership.
- Looking at future partnership with a newly retired educator in the Waynesboro area to serve as a VMNH Outreach Educator for the area.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

- Full staffed with Annabell Sechrist starting in mid-December.
- Staff has begun using 3-D printed fossil replicas for hands-on teaching tools.
- Staff will attend the VA Association of Environmental Education in Roanoke in February
- The Caesar's Foundation grant was not approved.
- Supplemental funding requests have been submitted to the budget managers at Henry County and Martinsville City. Both localities provide some funding to the program.

- Summer camp planning is underway. Staff will begin advertising camps next week. Thanks to local business support scholarships will again be available. Reports about students served are provided to the business following summer camps.
- Staff is considering a partnership with Fairy Stone State Park to use their trails this summer.
- Staff is seeking funds from our long-time partners, “Monogram Loves Kids” and “Boxley Materials” to provide a variety of educational programming.

With no further updates, Mr. Sanford adjourned the meeting at 9:35 AM.

The next meeting of the Education Committee of the Board of Trustees

Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Walker Lecture Hall