



SOUTHWEST METRO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Enriching Lives Through Education

MINUTES **Board meeting** **January 27, 2015**

Present: Laurie Gauer, Norma Timmons, John Weinand, Ginger Gregory, Joyce Eissinger, Will Thompson, Danelle Simenson (connected electronically)

Absent: Mary Jorissen, Beth Klehr, Russ St. John, Julie Friese, Renee Lips-Bush, Darren Kermes, Joan Cummings

I. Call to Order – 4:45

II.

III. Introductions

Welcome Will Thompson – so happy to have a former student well on his way to a successful career. We look forward to him sharing his energy, perspective and talents with us.

John move to add Will to SWMEF Board/Norma second – Approved

IV. Approval of September Meeting Minutes and October Notes

John Move to accept September meeting minutes and meeting notes/Norma second – Approved

V. Finance Report

Diane Weckman at SWMetro business office is taking over the board accounting. A financial statement was provided which included Good to Go Kids. A request was made to separate their funds from the Foundation funds on either a separate report or one report listing them separately.

Lesley will ask to Diane to make the changes

John Move to table November financial report/Norma Second – Approved

Change authorized signers for Community Bank Account. With Laurie as new chair, we need to update our authorized signers for our account at Community Bank. We need to remove Beth Klehr, keep John Weinand (Treasurer) and add Laurie Gauer (new Chair).

John Move to remove Beth and add Laurie to legal signature/Norma Second - Approved

VI. Fiscal Sponsor Updates

There has been very little activity recently with the only checks sent to Second Harvest. Mary has added Rebecca Romansky to help with some of the day to day functions so she will be

added to Good to Go Kids payroll.

VII. Board Meeting Schedule Discussion

2015 meeting dates are set for the 4th Tuesday of each month per our history. This day of the month still works best for every one present. The May meeting is the day after Memorial Day and the December meeting is the week of Christmas. Members present agreed it is important to meet in May even though it is a busy time of year. Summer attendance is unpredictable due to vacations, etc. and work needs to gear up for the Gala during those months. There will be no meeting in December.

VIII. Scholarship Mentors Discussion

Mentoring a young scholar is a big commitment. Some members have difficulty attending all meetings so more involvement might not be possible, but the schedule of other members may allow for additional involvement. Will thought it would be helpful for scholarship recipients to have a mentor. While he had a parent who attended college, many students do not have someone in their life with that experience so it would be great to have someone to support them through the process of college. Laurie suggested forming a committee that might want to help out. There may be community members who might be interested in volunteering, and there also may be former employees who would be interested. It could be structured so scholarship recipients could request or choose to have a mentor and then one could be found. Background checks are required for volunteers but the board agreed they would pay the fee. *Joyce volunteered to put out a call to recent retirees to see if any of them are interested; she will bring names to the March meeting so this could be organized in time for new scholarship recipients.*

IX. Foundation Goals & Purpose

Laurie and Lesley met with Darren to discuss needs of the Cooperative so we're all moving in the same direction. He communicated the desire to continue and grow the scholarships; sponsor events or celebrations that education dollars cannot or should not fund; fund specific objects like the projector in the auditorium or the sound system; and support not supported within programs such as transportation. Other questions or considerations include support for scholarship recipients into a second or third year of post-secondary education, increase the amount of scholarships rather than the number, and how to determine which requests get funded (currently first come first served). A suggestion was made to survey the students or the staff to gather information about what they need.

Laurie and Lesley discussed having a half day retreat with all board members. A strategic planning session was done before Lesley came on board, so it would be a good time to do it again. May 16th was the tentative date selected
Lesley will look for a community meeting place

X. New Beginnings - priority is replacing the \$80,000 lost from United Way, and it has been agreed

that a marketing plan needs to be developed. Should the Foundation work on marketing materials at the same time? Will just completed a program in Graphic design, and would be willing to help develop materials if someone can help develop the content. There also is a request to obtain capacity for online donations.

Lesley will research the cost of going through GiveMN or Razu versus expanding our current capacity to accept credit cards.

XI. Update School Board

The School Board met on the 20th and received a clean audit report for the last school year. The board will be organized with the same officers. Mary and John suggested the board members contribute a portion of the stipend they are paid to attend board meetings to create a SWMetro School board scholarship. Mary has offered to donate the remaining balance if they do not raise \$1,000.00.

XII. The Scholarship Award Breakfast will be held Thursday, May 21st in the auditorium at the 401 Building.

XIII.

Next Meeting February 24th