

SouthWest Metro Educational Foundation

Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 4:30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Lesley Chester, William Thompson, Norma Timmons, Stephanie Erickson, John Weinand, Laurie Gauer, Ginger Gregory, Melissa Carlson, Joyce Eissinger, Michael Sokol, Robin Dylla

Guests: Jennifer Bock

Absent: Mary Hanson, Danelle Simenson, Sara Heitkamp, Darren Kermes, Shannon Smith

1. CALL TO ORDER

Presenter: Laurie Gauer

Meeting called to order at 4:32pm.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

Board Vote Needed

Presenter: Laurie Gauer

Board vote to approve January Minutes moved by John Weinand with Stephanie Erickson second, followed by unanimous vote.



[SWMEF Board Minutes 1-23-18.docx](#)

3. FINANCE REPORT - APPROVAL OF JANUARY FINANCIALS

Board Vote Needed

Presenter: Lesley Chester and John Weinand

Reviewed January Financial reports. No activity thus far for Good to Go Kids in 2018. Reserve funds remain untouched. Money will start coming in for scholarships. Lesley will continue to refine the finance reports for added clarification.

Board vote to approve January Financials moved by John Weinand with Ginger Gregory second, followed by unanimous vote.

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES AND BREAKOUT TO SCHEDULE MEETINGS

Presenter: Laurie Gauer

Laurie was collecting names to document who is on each committee while Lesley was working to write up the current meeting schedules. Michael and Ginger joined the Gala/Fundraising Committee.

Scholarship application deadline is about a week away. The Scholarship Committee is planning to meet after the deadline to schedule interviews. There is an estimated 15-20 students applying for scholarships this year. Chanhassen Lions increased their scholarship donation this year. Chaska Lions will be providing a new scholarship this year.

Robin and Melissa suggested exploring the barriers that are preventing additional student from applying for scholarships which may include time of year and application process appearing overwhelming. William provided thoughts about his experience with the scholarship process and felt that when applying for a scholarship, it should be an educational experience around certain skills. The current scholarship application process focuses on skills around filling out an application, writing an essay, and interviewing. These are fundamental skills that people use throughout their lives. Ginger mentioned the current skills and needs of students today are very different compared to five years ago.

A future discussion topic for the Scholarship Committee is to identify the skills the application process should focus on and the current needs of the students today. Stephanie mentioned how there are often students graduating throughout the year with more in the Spring. How will the current needs and skill of students today impact the amount of applications and impact of scholarships? The committee may meet with staff to identify ways to grow the program by doing things such as increasing the amount of time applications are accepted or the amount of times scholarships are awarded each year. Lesley will review the current guidelines to see if there are alternative scholarship types the foundation can offer. The current focus of the Scholarship Committee has been to explore increasing the value of individual scholarships or being able to provide two-year scholarships.

The Mentoring Committee is working to set a meeting schedule. In a future meeting providing mentorship to existing high school students and assisting students with the scholarship application process will be explored.

Executive Committee will be meeting again before the March and April Board Meetings.

5. IMPORTANT DATES TO HAVE ON CALENDARS

Presenter: Laurie Gauer

Scholarship Application Deadline: March 9

Scholarship Interviews: April 10 - 12, 8am - 12pm

Scholarship Awards Breakfast: May 24

Please reach out to Lesley if interested in being a scholarship interviewer.

Board Strategic Planning Retreat: May 19

Gala: Friday, October 5, 2018

6. UPDATES FROM TEACHERS AND SCHOOL BOARD

Update from Teachers - Stephanie Erickson

Pennies for Patients campaign is happening now with over \$300 raised so far along with International Drug Facts Week. The first meet & greet with parents was a success. Parents were educated around post-secondary education financial aid and mental health.

Update from School Board - John Weinand

Faculty and students presented on the current CTE programs at the last meeting. The board started creating a stretch calendar for Lakeside Academy to start in July.

Update from District 288 Executive Director - Darren Kermes

7. OTHER

Presenter: Lesley Chester

No other additional items of discussion.

8. ADJOURN

Presenter: Laurie Gauer

February Board Meeting adjourned at 5:49pm.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, March 27th, 2018 at 4:30 pm.
Executive Committee Meeting is right before at 3:00 pm.