

SouthWest Metro Educational Foundation

Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 4:30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Lesley Chester, Laurie Gauer, William Thompson, Stephanie Erickson, Danelle Simenson, Melissa Carlson, John Weinand, Robin Dylla, Joyce Eissinger, Mary Hanson

Guests: Jennifer Bock

Absent: Norma Timmons, Shannon Smith, Michael Sokol, Ginger Gregory, Sara Heitkamp, Darren Kermes

1. CALL TO ORDER
Presenter: Laurie Gauer

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES
Board Vote Needed
Presenter: Laurie Gauer

Board vote to approve March Minutes moved by Melissa Carlson with John Weinand second, followed by unanimous vote.

3. FINANCE REPORT - APPROVAL OF MARCH FINANCIALS
Board Vote Needed
Presenter: Lesley Chester and John Weinand

Nothing to report for Good to Go Kids. The Balance Sheet by Class had some had some items in the wrong buckets and is not finalized. If there are remaining funds in General Operating, they may be moved to Reserve at fiscal year end. The foundation is in good financial standing moving into the new year.

Board vote to approve March Financials delayed as financial reports presented are not yet finalized.

For her upcoming birthday, Laurie mentioned that she is seeking donations for the foundation through Facebook. Jennifer thought this is a good way to create additional exposure for the foundation. However, Facebook does have a larger processing fee compared to other donation sites.

4. APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

BOARD ACTION NEEDED

Presenter: Lesley Chester

Scholarship interviews were completed this month with 22 applicants and 21 scholarships available. There were higher scores from all applicants this year. Scores have been calculated and reviewed by the board, next steps are for Lesley to notify recipients and prepare for the awards breakfast. The 401 Building has new AV equipment that will be used at the breakfast.

With 22 applicants and 21 scholarships available this year, the board needs to decide if it is possible to provide all applicants with scholarships. There are three options the board can consider to proceed forward. Option 1 is award 21 scholarships and turn away one student. Option 2 is award all students and pull \$500 from General Operating to create an additional scholarship. Option 3 is to pull \$1500 from General Operating by adding a \$1000 scholarship and match the Jordaness Lions \$500 scholarship, thus resulting in all students receiving a minimum \$1000 scholarship.

Board vote to approve pulling funds from General Operating to have 22 available scholarships moved by John Weinand with Stephanie Erickson second, followed by unanimous vote.

Board vote to approve proposed Option 3 to fund and award scholarships moved by John Weinand with Stephanie Erickson second, followed by unanimous vote.

5. VISION EXERCISE CONTINUED

Presenter: Laurie Gauer

Lesley presented the common themes of the vision exercise from the March Meeting: Grow Scholarship, Grow Grants, Grow Mentorship, Grow Infrastructure. The goal has been have everyone share their vision exercise, identify common themes, and spark discussion for the board retreat.

Scholarships can expand by increasing amount of available scholarships, create scholarships for multiple college years, and provide different types of scholarships/grants to meet student needs who are not college bound. Advancing the grant/scholarship offerings by increasing the number of requests and start benefiting students. The mentorship program can get started and expand beyond just scholarship recipients. Further building foundation infrastructure is done by increasing the amount of fundraising, increasing community presence, and build the board/staff with increased diversity and staff roles.

Melissa presented her vision exercise and sparked conversation about how everyone can better understand where people (students, staff, and foundation supporters) come from and how the various programs started.

Danelle mentioned she would like to develop the mentorship program because she sees how the students could greatly benefit. The board could consider providing a gift to students when graduating. This idea could be a discussion item at the retreat.

John reiterated and aligned with the previously mentioned common themes.

6. UPDATES FROM TEACHERS AND SCHOOL BOARD

Update from Teachers - Stephanie Erickson

Parent night had good attendance and was a good opportunity to meet student parents and discuss the development of students. Students have been asking about scholarship application process.

Update from School Board - John Weinand

The School Board met last week. New Beginnings staff attended and discussed the current program offerings. New Beginnings students have proposed to Legislation to have pregnant or parent teens be treated equally to other special education students in regards to reimbursements for bus transportation.

7. OTHER

Presenter: Lesley Chester

Important Dates:

May 8 Executive Committee Meeting

May 19 Board Retreat

May 24 Scholarship Breakfast

June 5 Teacher Appreciation Lunch

8. ADJOURN

Presenter: Laurie Gauer

Movement to adjourn April Meeting by John Weinand with Stephanie Erickson second.

April Board Meeting adjourned at 5:28pm.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, May 22nd, 2018 at 4:30 pm.