

L.E.A.F Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting
May 18 2009
KDV Conference Room

Members present: David Eickhoff, Rolf Jacobson, Pat Krueger, Pat Mullen, John Oxton, Jim Pehler, Andrea Swanberg, Ken Voss, Bruce Watkins, John Weitz, Bruce Hentges
Guests: Joanne Dorsher, Barb Carlson, Steve Joul

The meeting was called to order by President Mullen at 4:45.

Executive Director Hentges spent a few minutes explaining a news release that was shared, and some recent coverage and communication with the St. Cloud Times. Specific concerns had been expressed over the lack of coverage of grant allocations (as compared to another area school foundation making smaller awards). The result has been a complimentary editorial that included information about the potential expansion of the LEAF mission. Members expressed approval of the actions taken and outcomes.

President Mullen presented the Board with the agenda, announcing some modifications designed to allow for adequate discussion time. Pehler moved and Watkins seconded adoption of the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda items

1. Minutes of the April 16 meeting were reviewed. Voss moved and Eichoff seconded approval as printed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Because of the absence of Treasurer Lietha, there was no formal report.
(*Congratulations to the Liethas on the birth for their first child!)
3. Presidents Report
President Mullen reported that LEAF still needs a formal letter of resignation from former Executive Director Phil Welter
Mullen also reminded members that the usual suspension of meetings during the summer will not happen this year. Prepare for June & July meetings to handle pressing matters, including the Executive Director search and possible expanded mission work.
Mullen also announced that more MAPS information will be sent (emailed) by Andrea Swanberg.
4. Executive Director Report
Bruce Hentges provided a brief report that included the following item for action: LEAF has received a request for a contingency grant to help facilitate the Apollo Future Problem Solving Team's trip to Nationals in Michigan. The usual amount awarded has been \$500, but more is available, and up to \$1000 can be given. The Executive Board recommends that the max be awarded. Pehler moved and Oxton seconded a motion to approve \$1000 for the team. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Committee Reports

Budget Committee

Chair Jim Pehler reminded members of May 19 Community Foundation investment review meeting. Several members were slated to attend.

6. LEAF expansion

Hentges provided a review of the idea to expand the original mission of LEAF – from a focus on supporting only extra and co-curricular activities within District 742 schools, to include support for academic enrichment opportunities.

- This concept was first introduced to LEAF five years ago, but rejected by the board at that time due to:
 - A lack of specific information about the nature of a different organization
 - A lack of assurance of preserving the original mission
- Following that, a group of area citizens began discussing how a separate education foundation might be established
- While nothing was initiated, some specifically designated, academically oriented donations were offered and handled through LEAF.
- More recently, some members of that group began meeting again and discussion lead them to again approach LEAF, asking that expansion be reconsidered with more attention to concerns and details.

Guests were then invited to share their experience with and views of the concept. A review of the information shared is as follows:

- Joanne Dorsher – As a recently retired 742 Board of Education member she reiterated needs that have continued to inspire and give rise to public school foundations. Such entities provide a means for people to donate and designate support, assist with unusual needs in a complex world and help build broader community support and pride. She has done some research on similar organizations throughout the country and can provide examples.
- Barbara Carlson – As the director of the St. Cloud community Foundation (host to LEAF's funds) she has been involved in most related discussions regarding a possible separate agency and a possible expansion. Carlson shared that in her judgment, two separate education related foundations would not be in the best interests of the district and community. The Community Foundation is prepared to continue to provide appropriate assistance if LEAF expands.
- Steve Joul – Steve is also with the Community Foundation, and shared the view that many feel an expansion to a more full service education foundation would be good for the community. He suggested that because of a similarity of purpose, the combination of the two emphasis areas

under discussion would add strength. He reported supportive comments from several sources.

Members were invited to ask questions and offer additional thoughts and information. Discussion followed with several major points added:

- Watkins, as a former school superintendent, has served in three districts with strong education foundations. Based on his experience, he feels confident that concerns can be well handled, and feels the expansion would enhance an already successful LEAF.
- Members asked about examples of how more comprehensive foundations worked. Dorsher reported that those she studied followed the strategic plan of the school district, were student oriented and stressed a pursuit of excellence. Some support only new initiatives. Some limit support to proven, on-going programs. The board will have the responsibility for making decisions about priorities and procedures.
- Watkins added that some foundations work strategically with donors to create a legacy, thereby encouraging more major or annual gifts.
- Several noted that many donors want to know exactly where their money is going, already leading to the current LEAF policy regarding designated gifts.
- Pehler noted that care must be taken to insure that funding is consistent with the district priorities, and never used to influence or steer the Board of Education. Watkins reminded members that state regulations and the need for BOE approval of all donations would prevent that from happening. Eichoff added that the LEAF board also determines what will be funded. Rolf warned against getting hung up on hypotheticals.
- Hentges shared the fact that Phil Welter, former Executive Director and a founder of LEAF, had been supportive of the concept in discussions prior to his illness.
- The guests were thanked for an excellent discussion and left at 5:40pm
- Mullen distributed a summary of the executive committee's list of relevant advantages and challenges.

In order to resume discussion of the tabled motion regarding the expansion, Oxton moved and Pehler seconded removal from the table. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Voss presented the position of the executive committee. That is that the benefits outweigh the disadvantages and that this can be done successfully. He reminded members that this board can (and will) be a part of the design of the future of LEAF and avoid the problems that would arise should there be two competing organizations.

In his absence board member Barclay Carrier asked that his support for the motion be read into the proceedings.

With no further discussion, Mullen called for a vote.

The motion is as follows:

The Board of Directors shall expand the LEAF mission and operation to become a more comprehensive local public education foundation with a continued focus on support for extracurricular activities, and an added focus on academic enrichment opportunities.

The motion passed unanimously

7. Other Business

In order to facilitate a relatively quick and smooth adjustment, Krueger moved and Swanberg seconded the following: the Executive Committee is authorized to set up a temporary working group to plan, and present for approval, a reorganization of practices to accommodate an expanded mission.

The motion passed unanimously.

The outline for the expansion that has been discussed provides several aspects that will result in amended bylaws or adjusted procedures. One assumption is that the number of directors on the LEAF board will be increased. The maximum number is now 20, and growth to 24 has been suggested. Currently there are 17 members, so it was suggested that the nominations committee should begin seeking new board members.

8. Announcements

Pat Mullen announced that he has taken a new professional position out of state and will be leaving the area in July. Therefore, he will be giving up the presidency. The executive committee and the nominations committee will take up the matter of filling the position and rounding out the executive committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Krueger
Secretary