

L.E.A.F Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, October 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Rolf Jacobson at 4:45pm.

Members present: Tami DeLand, Joanne Dorsher, Debbie Erickson, Marty Heine, Rolf Jacobson, Jill Johnson, Pat Krueger, Craig Lietha, Chris McElroy, John Oxtan, Jim Pehler, Chuck Provinzino, Mark Sakry, Ken Voss, Pat Welter, Bruce Hentges, Phil Welter

Guest: Bob Feigh

Agenda

Executive Director Hentges requested that consideration of the Emeriti Board item be removed from the agenda, as appropriate bylaw language needed for adoption is not yet fully developed. This will be added to next month's agenda.

Hentges also asked to add a formal thank you to the Learning Renaissance Committee to the consent agenda, and the minutes were corrected, identifying "President Carriar", as opposed to "Vice-President Carriar".

Consent Agenda:

- A. Adjustments to the agenda
- B. Approval of minutes of September 19, 2011 Board meeting (attached)
- C. Approval of bill payments for September
- D. Fundraising Report for September (attached)
- E. Recognition and thanks to the Learning Renaissance Committee

Pehler moved and Sakry seconded approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/action items

1. Allocations Committee Report and Recommendations (Bob Feigh, Chair)

The committee has met and made recommendations for the fall granting round. Bob Feigh provided a written report for board members to review. He also congratulated the committee on their diligence, including preparation and careful deliberation. Pehler moved and Welter seconded approval of the allocation of \$18,172 as presented.

Time was spent reviewing the requests that were denied funding. These included limited audience and funding history. Several explanations focused primarily on facilities issues, and board members were reminded that LEAF has avoided funding repairs and permanent fixture requests. Feigh assured members that requests that were funded in part included assistance sufficient for things to happen. The motion passed unanimously.

Feigh went on to present the Board with a series of concerns, suggestions and

questions regarding allocations with the hope of refining and updating the process.

- There is growing concern about the best way to handle annually reoccurring requests – those that make it clear that LEAF is sustaining a program. The philosophy that has persisted over the years has been that LEAF should favor start-up and innovative expansion rather than maintenance. However, current economic conditions may be affecting the need, so board discussion of a growth or survival approach is requested. There was general agreement that the committee has done well making judgments so far, and there is evidence of consideration of changing needs.
- An important criterion that is consistently considered is the effort applicants make to raise money from additional sources.
- Several committee members emphasized the need for comments from applicants' supervisors – athletic directors or building administrators. It is hoped that they might shed light on impact and priorities.
- Another concern is the need for a stronger policy regarding partial funding and the ability to carry it over to grow the amount over several years. In the past, unused funding has typically been returned if additional fundraising was unsuccessful. If this practice was changed, higher priced items might become more attainable (i.e. wrestling mats). However, expectations for next round funding to grow an earmarked account might be difficult to handle – assurance of future installments should not be made. Hentges reminded the Board that tracking issues might also be more complicated. It was noted that many of the higher cost items might be considered facilities or equipment that LEAF does not currently fund. It was suggested that should the Board decide to try this, it would be more appropriate to set aside money for a period of time rather than transfer it to the program in installments.
- Many grant applicants sight safety concerns as evidence of need. Members were reminded that LEAF should not take on the responsibility of providing safety measures for any of the district activities.

Voss offered a motion to instruct the committee to review the process and make recommendations to the board reflecting ideas and concerns expressed in the discussion. (This may include a process for handling multi-year funding.)

The motion passed unanimously.

Feigh finished his report by adding that:

- Applicants should be encouraged to use local vendors when possible
- Use of the appropriate, current application form is still an issue. Some old forms still seem to be hiding in places that applicants find them. Refusal to fund an application on an outdated form may be appropriate.
- The committee has pondered whether or not it is ever appropriate to award more money than requested.

2. Treasurer's Report

Lietha reviewed the report and printed and distributed. He called attention to a predicted slight loss in September resulting from market fluctuations, but suggested that October should prove to be better.

He pointed out that payment on the loan from the school district has brought us closer to completion.

Accounting costs are up due to the organization's graduation to the longer 990 form. Pehler moved and Voss seconded approval of the report. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Academic Fundraiser Review

Hentges reported that preliminary revenue stands at about \$23,000. It appears that goals will be met. The committee will meet soon to do a final report and look at recommendations for next year. Consensus was that it was an excellent event, well run and well attended – and fun. Board attendance was high as well.

4. Committee Reports

Adopt-A-Classroom

Debbie Erickson reported that \$11,000 was raised for 44 classrooms. The majority of donors were new LEAF supporters. Around 160 classroom requests were received, so the need is expressed. The committee was pleased with the results but will meet to discuss how well the program fits into LEAF practice and priorities. An added item connected with this program involved a general fund allocation of \$150 to round out the full funding of the 44th classroom. Pehler moved and Oxtan seconded approval. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations

The nominations committee had requested a ten-minute brainstorming session to facilitate member input into a list of potential board members. Because of the length of earlier discussion, this activity was postponed by consensus. The committee will begin the search to fill positions on the board, and members are invited to forward suggestions to Ken Voss.

Grants

Voss reminded the Board that LEAF remains in the running for the Bernick's grant this year, having made it through several cutting rounds. He also announced that the Verizon request was not successful.

5. Executive Director's Report

Hentges presented the Board with information about a pending request for the Ice Breakers – the combined women's hockey team. A request for support was made, but removed from allocations committee consideration due to timing and the nature of the request. It essentially is the start of a flow-through fund similar to several other current funds. Hentges explained that a local foundation is planning to make a gift through LEAF to purchase uniforms. Their board will not meet to take action until December, but the funding is needed before the season begins. Therefore, LEAF is asked to allocate the earmarked funding prior to receipt of the promised gift to LEAF. Discussion focused on two concerns; the advisability of spending money not yet received and the fact that the combined team is not exclusive to 742 public school students.

The latter is of concern as LEAF has public school funding at the core of its mission. The Board was reminded that there is some precedent for this going back to funding for Alpine skiing.

There was also discussion regarding the potential for establishment of a beneficial relationship with the gifting foundation. Denial of the request might suggest a lack of trust or cooperation that, while fiscally reasonable, might be detrimental in the development of a long term relationship.

Sakry offered a motion to accept the gift and earmark \$2000 to support the Ice Breakers , specifying that this is an exceptional one-time advance action with no precedent setting implications. The motion was seconded by Pat Welter.

The motion passed with dissenting voice votes.

It was also suggested that the Board should review the policy regarding any inclusion of non-public school participation.

Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 6:20

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Krueger
Secretary