

**LOCAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, April 20, 2015
LOCATION: KDV**

Call to Order by Joanne Dorsher

Joanne Dorsher called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

Members Present: Executive Director Bruce Hentges and Board Members: Joanne Dorsher, Heidi Everett, Mark Helminick, Mike Janey, Patrick Kruchten, Pat Krueger, Jim Michaud, Joe Mullen, Pat Mullen, Elizabeth Reisinger, Gary Strandemo, Patricia Welter, Hassan Yussuf

Agenda Adjustments

Hentges shared two adjustments to the agenda:

An update on the a Homeless Student Service Fund – Item E under reports

A discussion of the regular meeting time was moved to the top of the Generative Mode Topics list.

Good News

Hentges shared recent thank-you messages from District 742 for spring grants and from Apollo Baseball for our recent ad.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of minutes of March, 2015 Board meeting

B. Approval of Executive Committee Minutes of April 2, 2015

C. Approval of bill payments for March, 2015

Welter moved and Janey seconded approval of the consent agenda.

The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

In Tim Beck's absence, Hentges shared reports as provided.

Hentges called attention to recent fundraising efforts:

- As of this date, \$14,073 has been netted from the 2015 NOTS event
- Flow-through amounted to \$3000 that will be matched

Also noted was the current endowment balance of approximately 1.1 million. That amount is growing, but fluctuates frequently because the fund is regularly drawn upon.

Hentges asked Board members for questions or concerns regarding the current budget-reporting format. None were expressed.

Hentges further explained slight difference in annual comparisons of revenue and expenditures that are the result to timing, plus interest on investments.

Overall, there is clear evidence of an increase in donations this year.

No action was taken,

Contingency Grant Requests

Hentges noted that, to date, no contingency grants had been allocated in this fiscal year. Thus, the full allocated amount of \$2000.00 is available for requests. Two requests have been received:

- A. North Community Problem Solving Team to International FPS Competition
The team has been invited to compete in the international competition being held in Ames, Iowa. They have been charged with raising \$15,000 and presented evidence of additional fundraising efforts.
- B. EdCampMidMN.
This request would support teachers participating in professional development. The impact on students in the district would be indirect. Based on budget needs, \$484.00 was requested.
- C. Flow Through Donation to Northway Drivers Rex Robotics International Competition (\$4,500).

Welter moved and J Mullen seconded a motion to allocate \$1,500 to the Problem Solving Team and \$484.00 to EdCampMidMN.

Discussion included questioning the appropriateness of funding professional development and its indirect impact. It was also noted that the EdCampMidMN request was more academic than activity based, and that a request to the Academic Fund during a regular granting round would be the more appropriate process for evaluation.

Welter amended her motion, withdrawing the \$484.00 allocation to EdCampMidMN. Secunder Mullen agreed to the change.

Additional discussion regarding the modified motion included a desire for a more detailed explanation of the budget Problem solving venture budget, and the possibility that additional requests may still come to LEAF before the end of the school year.

The motion allocation \$1,500.00 to the North Problem Solving Team passed unanimously.

No allocation was made to EdCampMidMN.

No action was required for the flow through donation to Northway Drivers Rex Robotics International Competition (\$4,500).

Committee Reports

- A. Ad Hoc Committee on Conflict of Interest Policy Review
Dorsher reported that this committee has not recently met. Some drafts of possible wording have been initiated, and will be carefully reviewed before presenting to the full Board.
- B. Progress of LEAF PAKRAT Bus Project. This includes a change of bus to be purchased, Welding of stairway by SCTC, Painting by New Flyer, Possession Date approx.. June 1.
Hentges reported that the bus originally set aside for this project has been replaced by a larger model – at the same cost. Since that bus is still in use through the end of the school year, no progress has been made on the

physical conversion, but plans are moving forward with support from the Rotary and volunteers. Images of the bus conversion will be shared on Facebook – a PR move to add excitement.

C. Ad Hoc committee on Process for Special Contingency Funding

This committee has not yet met, but will within the next month.

D. Learning Renaissance Committee

The first meeting in advance of next fall's event is set for Friday, April 24.

E. Homeless Student Service Fund

Hentges reported that committee members and district staff met with Stacie Peterson from Catholic Charities to compare efforts within the community.

This is part of a deliberate effort to assure that this program does not duplicate other efforts, and coordinates when possible and appropriate. The outcome of this meeting made it clear that we target a different demographic, and that all services are needed. To date, no duplication of efforts with any local group has been found.

Board members were reminded of the current services the LEAF supported program supplies, including:

Healthy snacks – on a more regular basis

Emergency housing

Emergency food

Vendors are paid directly, with no money going to individual students/parents, and individuals are not identified so privacy concerns are addressed.

The committee began brainstorming ideas to cover summer needs, but no concrete plans have been made.

Hentges compared this program to others that operate in a similar mode in the ROCORl and Grand Rapids school districts.

Generative Mode Topics for Board Meetings (From Board Retreat)

1. Meeting Date/Time: Is there a better time for our meetings?

Board members were asked to consider alternate days and times for regular meetings. The third Monday at 4:45 has been in place for many years, but attendance has indicated it may not be the best time for current members. Some noted that the 4:45 is a difficult time, suggesting slightly later might work better.

Pat Welter volunteered to create a survey for members to find alternate options.

2. Review Purpose and Mission from Strategic Plan

Copies of the most recent vision and mission statements were provided along with the latest strategic goals. Members were asked to consider appropriateness of the guiding documents, and directions the organization may be taking as current school requests and needs are addressed.

Members discussed whether LEAF's growth requires a complete revisit or simple update to the focus and plans that guide decisions. Factors brought into the discussion included:

How do we evaluate our impact?

Do we need to give greater consideration to sustainability of programs and activities we fund?

Is our rapid growth making it difficult to remain true to our current mission?

Does LEAF have a *watchdog role* to play?

Are we in need of a re-evaluation of priorities that guide granting, affiliation and operational practices?

Are we meeting the changing needs of the community?

How do we assure flexibility?

A planning retreat was supported informally without any specific recommendation on the scope. Dorsher asked members to consider how they would like to approach the planning:

- Can we gather to update our focus taking an entirely internal approach?
- Should an outside facilitator be hired?

Members expressed concerns about costs of facilitation services.

Dorsher will explore some possibilities and gather cost information. Hentges will check into possible grants that may be available for such services, and will consult with the Community Foundation staff for ideas.

The Executive Committee will return to The Board with options and a possible recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Krueger
Secretary Pro Temp