

LEAF Executive Board Meeting Minutes
October 5th, 2021, at 2:30pm
Via Zoom and in person at the LEAF office

Members Present: Bruce Hentges, Peggy Carlson, Lori Johnson, Tim Beck and Sara Martini

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:32 by Peggy Carlson.

2. There was one addition to the agenda. Bruce H. shared that we are submitting a \$30,005.00 grant to the Otto Bremer Foundation for PAKRAT and PAKCAT in District 742 on Wednesday.

3. Financials:

- Fundraising Report: Bruce shared the fundraising report. We haven't recognized any of the Learning Renaissance income yet. Our biggest donations so far have come for our Adopt a Classroom grants which is at \$33,000.00. Our endowment fund has \$2,195,524.24 and our total assets are \$2,263,498.35.
- September Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet: Bruce shared the report. The Apollo and Tech golf tournaments were paid out. Tim explained how the Foundant Program for our grants is expensed each month over the course of the year. Tim also explained the balance sheet and how the income from Learning Renaissance will move to the Profit and Loss Statement after Oct. 18th.

4. LEAF Fall Grants: Peggy reported that there was a total of 52 grants for the fall round. (29 academic grants and 23 activities grants.) Peggy gave the grants to the evaluators on Sunday, Oct. 3rd. The evaluators have until Oct. 17th to review the grants. The grant committee will meet on Oct. 19th. There was \$1,405.25 left over from grants not used last year. This amount was divided in half and \$703.00 was added to both the academic and activities grant totals to be awarded this fall. The total for academic grants is \$21,777.00 and the total for activities grants is \$23,375.00. Bruce H. got an emergency request from Apollo for \$340.00 for cleats for three Apollo soccer players. This will be granted from the participation fund.

5. Request for "potential" AP test funding: In 2019, LEAF was asked if we would pay \$2,000.00 for AP tests that are not taken by students. Students need to sign up in the fall for the spring AP test. If they don't take the test in the spring, the district is charged \$40.00 to cancel each test. A discussion was had about the importance for giving low income students the opportunity to sign up for AP classes and testing in the fall without worrying about the \$40.00 penalty if they don't take the AP test in the spring. In 2019, LEAF budgeted \$2,000.00 to cover these fees, but didn't have to pay anything because the cost was waived due to Covid. The charge was also waived during the 2020-2021 school year. We discussed that we would set aside \$4,000.00 this year, but this would need to be a yearly discussion by our executive committee.

Lori made a motion that we set aside \$4,000.00 to cover the \$40.00 AP test cancellation charge if needed. Sara seconded the motion. Everyone voted in favor to carry the motion.

6. Discussion of possible LEAF response to music program issues: Bruce shared his notes from the meeting between the LEAF executive committee and district members including Lori Posch, Laurie Putnam and Mike Rivard. We discussed ways that LEAF could help raise awareness of the music programs in District 742 including:

- Assemblies/Artist in Residency programs
- Parent music programs
- Cultural awareness programs
- Night of the Stars
- Lesson time

It was determined by the executive board that we need to have another meeting with the district to determine next steps. Bruce H. will reach out to Lori Posch, Laurie Putnam and Mike Rivard to set up another meeting.

We also discussed Night of the Stars. Bruce H. reported that Denny Smith would direct it again like he has in the past to take away some of the work load from the Apollo and Tech music directors. All of the executive committee members felt that if we hold Night of the Stars it should be at Tech to save the cost of renting the Paramount. The district said that they may be open to paying the Apollo and Tech music directors a stipend for their work on Night of the Stars.

7. Principles & Practices for Nonprofit Excellence: It was decided that Bruce H. will lead the governance topic at the October board meeting. Lori and Bruce will work together to create a Google Form survey on how the board thinks we are doing in the area of governance to help with the discussion of this topic.

8. LEAF Participation Fund: This was discussed with number 4 on the agenda.

9. LEAF Donor Management Software: All of our data is converted in Bloomerang, and Lori is starting to use the program. She and Bruce are meeting next Tuesday to start going through and cleaning up the records.

10. Policy Review Committee Update: The policy review committee met last week. We will be bringing F1 and F9-F15 to the full board for approval at the October board meeting. F14 and F15 are new policies. Bruce H. will send them out to all board members in the next week.

11. Learning Renaissance Update: Bruce H. reported that the Learning Renaissance event will be virtual and will run from Oct. 4th to Oct. 18th.

12. Strategic Plan Review: We are just leaving this item on our agenda.

13. Discussion/action regarding returning to monthly board meetings: We discussed the pros and cons of returning to monthly board meetings. We decided to put it on the first Google Form survey on governance to get the opinion of our board members to see what they prefer.

14. St. Cloud Educational Resources Advisory Committee: There is a lawsuit being led by Jerry Von Korff on behalf of District 742 suing the State of Minnesota for inadequate funding. This

lawsuit was filed several years ago, and an appeals court just gave it permission to continue. The District did not join the lawsuit. The SCERAC would like to give a brief lawsuit update to the full board at the October meeting. We have a packed agenda for the October meeting, but we agreed to give Bruce Mohs 10 minutes to talk about it at the end of the meeting.

15. Upcoming Events: No updates

Meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm. Lori made a motion to adjourn, and Sara seconded it.

Next LEAF Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 2nd at 2:30pm

Meeting minutes submitted by Sara Martini