

SEF Board Meeting
February 9, 2016, 6:30-8:00 pm
Hatton Elementary School

Present: Jan Galati, Donna Gilewski, Beth Hosmer, Corinne Khawaja, Paula Knight, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Joyce McAloon, Justin Mirante, Kelly Nolan-Maccione, Andrew Pion, Rick Veilleux, Mary Yuskis

Absent: Ellen Bellinger, Gail Duffy, Steve Proffitt

Guest: Steve Madancy

Meeting called to order at 6:37.

Jan introduced and welcomed four new Board members: Andrew, Corinne, Ellen (who was unable to attend), and Joyce.

CCSU/SPS

Jan, Chair reviewed evolution of proposed program. Assistant Superintendent, Steve Madancy, presented ideas to Board regarding what partnership with CCSU might look like (see handout). Exposure for high school students and peaking interest for middle schools students in STEM courses is main purpose. Goal: To increase participation in STEM courses at high school (baseline = 350/2000 or 17.5%) and “pipeline” for college readiness (baseline = only 30% of CCSU students have needed foundational courses/skills). Seeking support with transportation costs.

Board discussion/questions/ideas generated: how to get parents more involved similar to attendance at Family Math nights at elementary level. A special invitation indicating selection vs. general flyer might be more appealing. Development of on-line, virtual tour so can see what programming looks like was suggested to assist with changing stereotypes/negative mindset regarding Tech Ed. Recognition that Technology and Engineering in Education is more than Project Lead the Way and Robotics programs. Awareness regarding comprehensiveness of programming needs to be built in order to ensure middle school counselors and parents are enrolling for the right reasons. Consideration of how SEF might support split of TEE from Arts/Business graduation requirement to ensure 100% student participation.

Jan thanked Mr. Madancy for his presentation and the Board looks forward to receiving full program application for funding consideration.

Approval of Minutes

Kelly and Rick motioned for approval of minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Rick provided report (see handout). End of year total \$98,208.26. Current balance \$97,852.93.

Beth and Kelly motioned for approval of report.

Chair's Report

Jan noted that an informal Board meeting was held on January 12th at Hatton. Beth provided Google Drive training for interested Board members. Those in attendance were Gail, Michelle, George, Paula, Ellen, Jerry, and Corinne.

Jan submitted mid-year report on Artists-in-Residence Program. Panels will be painted on Rails to Trails wall of Deans Stove and Spa.

On February 26th, Board members have been invited to Robotics fundraiser at SHS.

In December, Jan and Dave met with the BOE, district, and school administrators on three separate occasions to increase awareness and outreach. Thank you letters were sent to BOE Chair and Superintendent for their time and continued partnership.

Scholarship Committee

Kelly reported scholarship applications deadline is March 5th. Decision made to first screen all applications by March 19th. Applications will be shared with readers week of March 21st for their review and then reader results due back by first week of April.

Grants Committee

Beth shared four teacher grants were submitted. Two being brought to Board for review at this time: 1) Architectural History Project at SHS (\$4100 to purchase materials/equipment for coursework); 2) Entrepreneurship Program at MS (\$1800 to purchase materials/equipment for startup). Both are being accepted as sustainable activities.

Beth and Michelle will prepare final edits. Jan and Jerry will work to post teacher and program grant applications on SEF website. School/PTO Ambassadors are encouraged to get on April agendas to share information regarding new application process.

Board Development Committee

Jan shared status of Board members' terms and informed group that Steve and Rick are unable to continue their participation on Executive Committee due to competing demands for their time (see handout). She requested each Board Member give her potential names to contact to inquire regarding their interest in serving on the SEF Board as Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer positions are open for the coming year.

Ambassador Program

Joyce agreed to take up an ambassadorship; she is an educator at Flanders and is involved in their PTO.

Resource Development Committee

Donna provided Spelling Bee update and invited all interested Board Members to attend meeting on February 18th at 6:30 at Paula's house. Steve has agreed to MC. Superintendent, Tim Connellan, and LA Coordinator, Stephanie Lawlor, have agreed to judge. Beth will speak with Rit Campbell regarding desire to run powerpoint from projector vs. relying on WiFi. Sponsorships are being sought to defray costs and increase funds raised, including United Bank. Caution approaching Spelling Bee donors. Should be seeking new partners/businesses (e.g., Bangle on Main Street, girls can model prom dresses prior to event). Considering having restaurants compete against each other to boost team registration.

Rick shared concern regarding decision to take year off from Gala, as is most visible event for SEF. He expressed that shift in focus from fundraising to decision-making regarding programming could be counterintuitive. Michelle shared decision to postpone Gala and consider alternate fundraising activities was made for two primary reasons: 1) other non-profits hosting similar events at same venue for same purpose at same time could be reason for reduced number of participants; and 2) not yet able to demonstrate to donors how contributions received to date are being used to fulfill mission of SEF. The Chair decided to table this topic for a future meeting so that more time could be allotted for discussion.

Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee Retreat, February 20th, 9-11:30, The Orchards

Board Meeting, March 8th, 6:30-8, Hatton

Final Board Meeting of 2015-2016 changed from April 12th to April 26th due to school vacation.

Kelly and Paula motioned to adjourn at 8:03.

Respectfully submitted by, Michelle LeBrun-Griffin