



**FOUNDATION**  
FOR  
RUSHFORD-PETERSON SCHOOLS

**Foundation for Rushford-Peterson Schools Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, February 2, 2018 | 8:00am | New School Conference Room**

Chair Sally Ryman called the meeting to order at 8:04.

**Present:** Chuck Ehler, Sally Ryman, Claire Olstad, Kathy Wade, Jen Hengel, Donna Boyum, Jenny Helgemoe, John Linder, Matt Strapp, Lisa Lawston, JoAnne Angrimson, June Vitse, Jack Culhane.

**Not Present:** Joyce Iverson, Hannah Ledebuhr.

**Approval of Agenda:** Chuck Ehler moved, Kathy Wade seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Kathy Wade moved, Donna Boyum seconded, to approve the January 12 meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

**Bills to Pay:** No bills to pay or checks to deposit this month.

**Financial Report:** Jen Hengel reported that \$881.76 in interest was transferred from SMIF to the endowment fund. She noted that \$869.23 of the interest was from Endowment Fund investments. Also, two online donations of \$100 each were made to the general fund and the endowment fund respectively. She also noted that payments approved last meeting had been made: \$3000 from the general fund and \$4000 from named scholarships were disbursed to scholarship recipients.

Lisa Lawston moved, June Vitse seconded, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

**P.O. Box:** Since we have paid through fall and have a good supply of envelopes with the current PO Box number, the suggestion was made that we make the transition in May, after the scholarship fundraiser and before the fall feast mailing. All agreed.

**Request from WE group to be a cancer awareness week sponsor:** We received the request too late to meet the sponsor deadline. However, the board discussed whether we should support solely the scholarships or should we support other causes within the school and community. If we support the WE group, that group would place our name on the back of their T-shirt as sponsors; therefore, the advertising could increase participants. How do we maintain our mission and support others? If we give to this, do we then need to give to all other groups? Would we fund solely school fundraisers or would we give in the community as well. We should consider whether the money would go to students or to another entity. It was suggested that we discuss this at another meeting.

**Rushford Arts & Crafts Fair Fundraiser Opportunity:** Karen Nelson is interested in moving on from being in charge of the Arts & Crafts Fair. The Fair raises \$2,000-3,000 annually and is held the third Saturday in October. Due to its closeness to the Bluff Land Tri and the Fall Feast/Annual Meeting, the group decided it was too big of an endeavor to take on. Sally Ryman will inform Karen Nelson and suggest she offer it to another group.

**Scholarship Fund Drive:** Jenny Helgemoe reported that 5-6 students are already signed up to help with this fundraiser. There are three separate call “stations” in the office which will be used. The drive begins Saturday, February 10, 9:00-11:30 a.m. for calling. The drive goes through March 2. with emails, Facebook posts and an ad in the paper. Students will reach out to parents, community members, alumni and staff. Sally Ryman and Hannah Ledebuhr will help on February 10.

The group reviewed and approved a “Thank You, It’s Not Too Late to Donate” ad for the Tri-County Record. Besides raising funds, the event does alert alumni and others that the Foundation exists. Though they may not contribute at this time, the event may promote giving at another time. The Community Foundation is aware that the fundraiser is occurring so that if funds do come in, those funds will go to our Foundation.

**Trade School Scholarships:** Jack Culhane said a business in town had suggested some businesses might be interested in sponsoring scholarships for trades. Sally, Clair, Jack, Jenny, and Chuck offered to discuss this idea and create an approach for this opportunity. Chuck added that there has been some interest in R-P adding curriculum that would include courses that would foster trade skills. Jack will call a meeting of this subcommittee to create a plan of action.

**Scholarship Application Review:** The draft application was reviewed and changes were made. Jenny will send the revised version to Jo Anne for editing. Jenny will release it to students early next week, and it will be posted on the website. March 23 is the application deadline; April 6 the Foundation board will review "blind" copies of the applications and select 6 recipients.

**Press Releases:** Jenny presented the press release for the Jameson Scholarship, which is a named scholarship that the school foundation administers. It will go to the *Tri-County Record* and the *Fillmore County Journal*. Chair Ryman suggested that the R-P Foundation be identified on all press releases with a brief statement of our mission, and Jenny will add that as a footnote.

**Bluff Land Tri:** Kathy has contacted three different places to find a way to reasonably fund the chip timing. She would like to first focus on finding a route that begins at Creekside and ends at Creekside, avoiding the wooden bridges. Kathy suggested the route could begin at Creekside, run to MiEnergy, then bike from there to a location TBD, then back to Rushford for the hike.

October 16 is the date set for the BLT. We'll begin posting information about the date on the website and social media.

**Fall Feast:** Lisa confirmed with Allison Kjos that the Mill is available October 6 for the Fall Feast.

**Service Award Scholarship:** Past member Robin Honken and Chair Sally Ryman have discussed the possibility of rewarding students who serve on the Foundation board. The board has depended upon the current student representatives' work outside of the meetings to encourage other students' involvement; they have also participated in our fund drives. Simply attending meetings is not enough to merit a scholarship; however, if the students contribute their time and energy to the Foundation, it should be rewarded. Chuck Ehler will prepare a statement that would enable students to know that there is potential for a scholarship.

**Adjourn:** Donna moved; Chuck seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, March 2 | 8:00 a.m. | R-P School

