



FOUNDATION
FOR
RUSHFORD-PETERSON SCHOOLS

Board Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. | Zoom & Conference Room

In Attendance: June Vitse, Hannah Linder, Aaron Prinsen, Jenny Helgemoe, Jen Hengel, Jack Culhane, Brenda Tesch, Jon Thompson, Joyce Iverson, Jo Anne Agrimson, and Claire Olstad.

Absent: Donna Boyum, Amy Woxland, Lisa Lawston

President Joyce Iverson called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda by Claire Olstad; seconded by Jack Culhane. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from March 5, 2021 by Brenda Tesch; seconded by June Vitse. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Jen Hengel has not yet received the first quarter (Jan-March) interest report from SMIF. The Angel Fund has over \$5,000. She spoke with members of the BLT committee about putting the sponsorship monies directly into the scholarship fund rather than depositing it in the BLT account and then having to transfer it each year.

Named Scholarships gained significant amounts. The Retired Teachers Scholarship increased as did the John Kinneberg Memorial Scholarship (to be awarded 2022). The Bruce Victor Bartleson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to 2 students in 2021. This scholarship will award \$500 per year for the next 18 years in Larry & Anne Bartleson's grandson's memory.

Hengel answered questions about the Endowment Fund: SMIF allows us to use only a small percentage of those monies each year. The purpose of that fund is growth and future sustainability.

Brenda Tesch reminded us that class size can create the difference for annual scholarships: we had decided to go with 10% of the class as a goal for the number of scholarships to grant.

It is difficult to choose applicants, but we can discuss criteria as well. Tesch mentioned looking at the completeness of the scholarship application. She also noted some of the cooperatives with which she works have actually drawn names to determine scholarships.

Motion to accept the Financial Report by Brenda Tesch; seconded by Jo Anne Agrimson. Motion carried.

Bills to Pay: Invoice from the Chamber for \$210.00 for contract services. Motion to pay the Chamber invoice by Jo Anne Agrimson; seconded by June Vitse to approve. Motion carried.

Request from the Angel Fund: \$485 for a summer school program. Motion to approve the \$485 for the R-P Summer School Program by Claire Olstad; seconded by Jack Culhane. Motion carried.

At this point, the student representatives left the meeting as the committee commenced its scholarship selections.

Review and Selection of Foundation Scholarships: 4 applicants were applying to RCTC or Southeast Technical, which Joyce Iverson suggested could be considered trade scholarships. Jack Culhane suggested the board needs to define “trade” in the future since we intended those scholarships to be a 2-year program. Perhaps we need to try to urge other teachers whose coursework is trade-oriented to work with Jenny Helgemoe to promote these trade scholarships.

Motion to grant trade scholarships to applicants numbered 5 & 12 who seem to be going into trades and to hold remaining trade scholarship funds for future use made by Brenda Tesch; seconded by June Vitse. Motion carried.

Jenny Helgemoe informed the board that as of today, next year’s senior class currently consists of 43; the current 10th grade is 53; our current 9th grade is 49; some parents have chosen to continue home-schooling through this year. The numbers may change next year.

Jack Culhane asked if the Foundation has sufficient funds to give 7 scholarships and the Chuck Ehler Honorary Scholarship. Hengel answered that there are enough funds.

Motion by Jack Culhane, seconded by Jo Anne Agrimson, to rescind the February meeting’s motion to award 5 scholarships and instead award 7 scholarships for 2021 only and to explore the criteria for future scholarships. Motion carried. Awards will be given to numbers 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 14 and 15. Names will be announced during Senior Awards Ceremony. The board will be informed at the meeting after the awards ceremony so students’ names will be entered into the minutes.

Hengel will speak with the American Legion’s Larry Bartleson to discuss the Legion’s criteria for their monies.

Motion by Jack Culhane, seconded by Joyce Iverson, that Jo Anne Agrimson present the Foundation awards this year. Motion carried.

Motion by Jo Anne Agrimson, seconded by Claire Olstad, to award a \$250 foundation service award to Hannah Linder. Motion carried.

BLT Planning: The website has been updated and the link for registration has been updated. Social media posts will come from the foundation’s Facebook page and the BLT Facebook page. Brenda Tesch is working on a news release for next week. We have chosen to give t-shirts this year, and we are looking at medallions.

Next meeting: Scheduled for Friday, May 7, 2021 @ 8 a.m. at R-P School.

Adjourn: Motion by Claire Olstad, seconded by Joyce Iverson, to adjourn at 9:19. Motion carried.

Actions for SMIF:

\$210 payment to the Rushford Peterson Valley Chamber; \$485 to R-P Schools for the Summer School Program; Scholarships will be paid in December