



# FOUNDATION FOR RUSHFORD-PETERSON SCHOOLS

## Board Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2023 | 7:30 a.m. | Forum Room, RP School

**In Attendance:** June Vitse, Jack Culhane, Joyce Iverson, Supt. Ben Bernard, Jenny Helgemoe, Brenda Tesch, Duane Koenen, Jo Anne Agrimson, Jen Hengel, Amy Woxland, Brielle Rasmussen, and Steve Oian.

**Absent:** Ryan Prinsen

President Joyce Iverson called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. She asked for a minute of silence to remember the children and adults killed or injured in school shootings, and those killed or injured in the incident at our nation's capitol two years ago.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion by Woxland, seconded by Culhane, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** Motion by Vitse, seconded by Oian, to approve the minutes from November 4, 2022. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Hengel recapped her January 2 email to board members regarding the financial activities since the last meeting. The email included the following:

“Scholarship Payments - The request for scholarships to be paid was emailed to the Southern MN Initiative Foundation (SMIF) on November 23. SMIF mailed checks following their December 15 check-run. Scholarships paid from the Named Scholarship Fund (each \$500 unless otherwise noted):

- Carson Thompson - Michael Reinhardt, Mitch Thompson, and Ronald Kjos scholarships
- Hayden Banks - Michael Reinhardt Scholarship
- Aaron Prinsen - Merle & Bette Evenson and Mitch Thompson scholarships
- Olivia Thompson - Merle & Bette Evenson Scholarship
- Andrew Hoiness - Mitch Thompson Scholarship
- Malachi Bunke - Mitch Thompson and G.S. Woxland (\$1,000) scholarships
- Emarie Jacobson - Ronald Kjos Scholarship
- Breena Pehler - Bruce V. Bartelson Scholarship
- Zenessa Anderson - Bruce Blixt Scholarship (\$1,500)

Scholarships paid from the General Scholarship Fund (each \$500 unless otherwise noted):

- Olivia Thompson - Merlin & Lila Jameson Scholarship (\$1,000)\*
- Jasmine Schueler - Merlin & Lila Jameson Scholarship (\$1,000)\*
- Alyvia Eide - Merlin & Lila Jameson Scholarship (\$1,000)\*
- Aaron Prinsen - Foundation Scholarship and Community Service Award (\$250)
- Carson Thompson - Foundation Scholarship
- Ellyson Malone - Foundation Scholarship and Rushford Legion Scholarship (\$200)\*\*
- Hannah Lutz - Foundation Scholarship
- Andrew McNeill - Foundation Scholarship

- Emarie Jacobson - Foundation Scholarship
- Grace Buchanan - Foundation Ehler Scholarship
- Thomas Ekern - Foundation Trade & Tech; Rushford Legion Scholarship (\$200)\*\*
- Malachi Bunke - Foundation Trade & Tech Scholarship

\*Jameson scholarships paid from General Scholarship Fund - The Jameson family donated \$20,000 to begin the Merlin & Lila Jameson Scholarship in 2017. This scholarship gives the recipient \$1,000 as a freshman and \$1,000 as a junior. In July 2017, the Board transferred \$20,000 from the Named Scholarship Fund to start up the Endowment Fund, with the understanding that we would move money from the Endowment Fund, as needed, to pay Named Scholarships. However, in order to preserve the Endowment Fund, the Board has instead used the General Scholarship Fund to fulfill the Named Scholarship payments as needed. You'll see above that \$3,000 was taken from the General Scholarship Fund to pay the three Jameson scholarships in December. Alyvia Eide attended a two-year program at RCTC, so instead of receiving the \$1,000 scholarships during her freshman and junior years, her school received one in December 2021 and the second in December 2022.

\*\*Rushford Legion Scholarships - Rushford Legion sent a \$400 donation in November 2021, which was placed in the General Scholarship Fund. The Legion awarded two \$200 scholarships in May 2022. In talking with a Legion representative this past November, it was their intent that the November 2021 donation to the Foundation be used to pay those two scholarships. In the future, if the Legion donates designated funds, we will put the donation in the Named Scholarship Fund so we know that the Foundation Board does not choose the recipients.

Scholarship deferment for a student taking a gap year - Justin Ruberg, a May 2022 R-P graduate, will begin post-secondary schooling in fall 2023. His scholarships will be paid at the completion of his first semester in December 2023. He received the Merle & Bette Evenson Scholarship (\$500), Mitch Thompson Scholarship (\$500), G.S. Woxland Scholarship (\$1,000), Retired Teachers Scholarship (\$500), and the Foundation for R-P Schools' Trade & Tech Scholarship (\$500)."

By the end of January, we should know the interest amounts from SMIF that were applied to each of the funds. The annual Fall Mail Campaign has resulted in 34 donations totaling \$3,355 to date--\$50 was designated to a Named Scholarship and \$3,305 was placed in the General Fund (\$1,240 of this amount was designated for the Angel Fund).

Motion by Tesch, seconded by Koenen, to accept the treasurer's report.

**Bills to Pay/Angel Fund:** Two Angel Fund requests were presented: (1) For a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student's \$55 Chromebook lease and (2) For a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student's \$55 Chromebook lease. Motion by Agrimson, seconded by Woxland, to pay these Angel Fund requests. Motion carried.

**Annual Fundraising: 2023 Bluff Land Trojan Kids' Challenge & Bluff Land Tri:** Brenda Tesch looked ahead to Saturday, July 15 for the kids' challenge. There will be a quick meeting after the Foundation meeting to begin planning. Tesch called for volunteers to help plan. Tim Johnson will be contacted about bike racks. The fund-raising letter will be edited to include each business's prior donation. The letter will be on the February agenda.

**Scholarships:** Jenny Helgemoe addressed the current Foundation Scholarship application, which was sent as an attachment. We have 50 seniors, so our 10% goal means at least 5 students will receive scholarships. Motion by Culhane, seconded by Tesch, to approve the current application.

**Scholarships for need?** Jenny Helgemoe discussed President Iverson's concern about scholarships. Are we meeting the needs of students? Helgemoe said there are more students taking PSEO classes and taking advantage of other opportunities to pay for school. Helgemoe said that students tend not to fill out scholarships even when given time. Her thoughts were for the Foundation to offer as many of our current scholarships as possible in any given year and look into giving renewable scholarships when our finances allow.

Helgemoe will tell seniors that \$500 scholarships will be given but no specific number of scholarships will be stated. The awards program will be May 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Oian mentioned that Farmers Win Coop gives a scholarship. He will get the details to Helgemoe.

**Next meeting is** scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Friday, February 3 in the Forum Room. Other meetings are scheduled for March 3 and April 7.

Motion by Vitse, seconded by Woxland, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:58.

#### **ACTIONS FOR SMIF:**

**Payments to the following (see Bills to be Paid form for addresses and funds debited):**

- **Rushford-Peterson Schools, \$110.00 from General Fund.**