



FOUNDATION
FOR
RUSHFORD-PETERSON SCHOOLS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 6, 2024
Forum Room, RP School

Called to Order at 7:30 a.m. by President Iverson.

Attendance: Joyce Iverson, Brenda Tesch, Barb Zoelle-Johnson, Jake Dahl, Kenna Gudmundson, Duane Koenen, Ben Bernard, Steve Oian, Jenny Helgemoe, and Jen Hengel
Absent: Nancy Snyder (to be replaced by another School Board member), Megan LaFleur, Will LaFleur

Regular Meeting Agenda: There were no changes to the proposed agenda. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Oian, seconded by Koenen. All in Favor. Motion approved.

Minutes of August 9, 2024 meeting: Motion to approve the August 9, 2024 minutes was made by Koenen, seconded by Gudmundson. All in Favor. Motion approved.

Student members opportunity to share information or ideas: Gudmundson reported that the new school year is off to a good start.

Financial Report – Jennifer Hengel, Funds Coordinator:

Fund Summaries as of September 5, 2024, QTD:

General Fund	\$ 7,857.63
Bluff Land Tri	\$ 10,342.12
Scholarship	\$ 20,623.97
Named Scholarships	\$ 27,353.75
Endowment Fund	\$ <u>61,135.29</u>
	\$ 127,312.76

Hengel reported that interest amounts have been added to the Foundation's accounts as of June 30, 2024. She noted that interest amounts have improved over the last year. The Bluff Land Triathlon account received a deposit from the Chamber in the amount of \$6,957.89 from the online Bluff Land Tri registrations. Hengel also reported that the entry fee revenue from this year's Bluff Land Tri is the most that has ever come in for this event. She hopes to provide the final accounting for the 2024 Bluff Land Tri at the October meeting. Motion to accept the financial report by Tesch, seconded by Dahl. All in favor. Motion approved.

Bills to Pay/ Angel Fund:

Bills: Hengel reported that she has received the invoices resulting from the Bluff Land Tri and one from the Kids Challenge. She read to the Board the list of invoices as follows:

Joyce Iverson - \$13.96 - Expense reimbursement for ice from Pam's Corner for BLT

Gopher State Events LLC - \$1,171.00 - Inv #1481 for event timing for BLT

Dale Baker - \$200.00 – portable toilets for BLT

Turned Write Handcrafted Art - \$196.00 - Inv #81124 for 14 medals for BLT

Capture It In Steel - \$120.00 - 10 medals for BLT

Brenda Tesch - \$802.14 - Expense reimbursement for Crown Awards (\$573.72 for medals); Amazon (\$18.50 for medal ribbons, \$51.48 for safety vests, \$58.46 for medals for the Kids Challenge); and for Facebook/Meta for Business paid ads (\$99.98)

Motion to pay these bills made by Oian, seconded by Bernard. All in favor. Motion approved.

Angel Fund: The Board was informed that there are students who will need financial assistance to pay for the technology required for their studies. The cost is estimated to be \$300.00. This is a developing need and a formal motion will be brought before the Board at the October meeting. Hengel reported that there is currently almost \$4,400.00 available in the Angel Fund to address needs. The Board clarified that staff can immediately move forward in providing technology to the students during this interim period. The Board will accept the formal motion at the upcoming October meeting.

Fall Fundraising: It is time to make an outreach to individual donors. The request letters need to be updated and Sally Ryman will send them out. It is suggested that an effort be made to expand the mailing list for these letters and that perhaps additional donors could be reached from postings on the foundation's and the school's Facebook pages.

Foundation Scholarships

Regarding the tabled item of the Rushford Peterson Valley Ambassador Scholarship, the Rushford Community Foundation did not meet in August. Hengel hopes to attend the next scheduled Rushford Community Foundation meeting and be able to report back to this Board after that meeting has been conducted.

2024 Kids Challenge and BLT 2024 Wrap Up – Brenda Tesch, Committee Chair:

Tesch reported that the 2024 BLT was a success in this, its 10th year. The BLT Committee met on September 5, 2024 to discuss and wrap up this year's event and begin a look forward to 2025. The Bluff Land Triathlon began in 2015 with golf, running, and biking, and then changed to the run, bike and hike we have today. The event was primarily local at first until the committee decided to spread information about the event to a broader area. In 2019 there were 39 finishers. Tesch reported that in 2024 there were 116 finishers and a total of 151 participants, including 13 relay teams. The maximum of 125 registrations was met by the early registration deadline. Triathlon participants were asked to complete a survey to provide feedback for planning for the future. Tesch reported that the overall survey results were positive. Participants particularly applauded and appreciated all the support and help from the event's volunteers, including cheering the participants along the routes.

One area of need identified was having more support for participants in the transition area. It was also suggested that there be more bike racks available for participants. There are currently 17 bike racks. These racks belong to the event and the City of Rushford kindly stores them. Tesch made a request to purchase additional bike racks for the 2025 event. The cost per rack previously was about \$147.00. A motion to purchase an additional seven (7) bike racks and to apply for a Falck Grant due October 1st for the cost was made by Dahl, seconded by Koenen. All in favor. Motion approved.

Gopher Events provides the BLT with timing for the races. Next year's event is planned for August 16, 2025. A motion to have Gopher Events place the BLT on their schedule for 2025 was made by Oian, seconded by Dahl. All in favor. Motion approved. Another suggestion being considered is development of new, permanent signage that can be used every year to advertise and promote the event. Tesch said this is timely now that the BLT has a new logo that can be used on this type of material. This idea is in the development stage.

Kids Challenge: A determination needs to be made if there will be a Kid's Challenge event in 2025. Planning for the event needs to kick off the first of the year to assure that all is ready for the July event during Rushford Days. Brenda Tesch is not available to be present to lead the event in 2025. Volunteers are key for the success of the event and more board members are needed to participate. Iverson will contact June Vitse to be the lead for facilitating the Kid's Challenge event in 2025 as she and Nathan have been key leaders in setting up the obstacle course and obtaining necessary materials, equipment and prizes for the event. This event has been funded by the Booster Club so there is no cost for the children.

September 6, 2024 Minutes, continued
Page Three

Other Business: Hengel informed the Board of an upcoming SMIF Annual Community Foundation Training scheduled October 2, 2024 in Owatonna, MN. This is a free event to board members. Hengel will forward details of the event to Board members to review.

President Iverson reminds that the October 4, 2024 meeting will be welcoming new members to the Board and a new president will be elected to start in November.

Next Meeting (usually the 1st Friday of the month): October 4, 2024 at 7:30, Forum Room; November 8 (Annual Meeting)

Adjourned at 8:00 a.m. on motion by Bernard, seconded Oian. All in Favor. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Zoelle-Johnson, Secretary

ACTIONS FOR SMIF:

All following expenses, totaling \$2,503.10, from the Bluff Land Tri Fund (#01014)

Joyce Iverson - \$13.96 - Expense reimbursement

Gopher State Events LLC - \$1,171.00 - Inv #1481

Dale Baker - \$200.00 – portable toilets for BLT

Turned Write Handcrafted Art - \$196.00 - Inv #81124 14

Capture It In Steel - \$120.00 - 10 medals for BLT

Brenda Tesch - \$802.14 - Expense reimbursement