



"It was really cool to listen to all the future technology that we could incorporate now, in 2015." Carter Neumann, 2015 Future Cities

Education Foundation of Stanislaus County Board Meeting Minutes **February 12, 2015, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, Petersen Event Center**

Attendees

Phil Alfano, Christine Baily, Brittney Boone, Tom Changnon, Pam Denney, Pat Dodd, Ron Emerzian, Kenni Friedman, Don Gatti, Cheryl Goulart, Jessica Hewitt, Kathy Hobby, Amy Neumann, Chris Ricci, Susan Rich, Melanee Wyatt

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 am by Pam Denney. A quorum was present.

Program Presentation: Student Events Program

Pam Denney gave an overview of the Future Cities competition process. Cheryl Goulart gave a brief history of the Future Cities program since it has been with Stanislaus County Office of Education in 2012. The 2015 La Loma Junior High Future Cities team presented their model of San Francisco.

Correspondence and Celebrations

Pam Denney discussed the following:

- Cheryl Goulart began the role of Student Event Programs Coordinator in January 2015.
- Pam Able and Dave Gianelli resigned from the Board. A thank you letter and certificate will be sent in honor of their service.
- The Education Foundation received the CalSPRA Award for the new Brochure.
- Vicki Lucas from East Stanislaus High School was honored with the Jane Johnston Civility Award at the Employees Making a Difference awards program in January 2015. Pam Denney presented the award.
- The Teacher of the Year luncheon will occur on May 5, 2015. This event is sponsored by SCOE and Modesto Rotary. Pam announced that there is a need for selection team members to select the Jane Johnston Civility Award winner. Christine Baily and Don Gatti volunteered.
- Hearts & Flowers Luncheon, which will occur on March 6, 2015 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm, is sponsored by the Stanislaus Medical Society Alliance. The Education Foundation was selected as one of four charities to benefit from the proceeds. Over the course of three years, this event has raised \$20,000 for the Foundation. Pam asked for Board members who are interested in attending to contact Sue Rich. Lunch tickets are \$45 each and an auction wand can be purchased for \$40.
- Connecting for Good II will occur on April 9, 2015 from 7:30-3:30 at the Martin Peterson Event Center. This will be a networking event with three guest speakers and breakout sessions. Tickets are \$25; registration information is available on the Stanislaus Community Foundation website.
- Epsilon Nu State Theater Fundraiser April 23, 2015 is a fun evening of wine, appetizers, and a movie: *High Society*. This event raises funds on behalf of the Education Foundation. In 2014, this event raised \$4,500.

Approval of November 14th Board Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

Pat Dodd motioned to approve the November 14, 2014 Board meeting minutes. Kenni Friedman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2015 Proposed Budget

Pat Dodd and Don Gatti gave an overview of the Finance Committee meeting discussions, new budget format, and 2015 proposed operation budget.

- The Advisory Board and the Ad Hoc Finance Committee recommended a change in fiscal year. The current fiscal year is from January 1-December 31. The fiscal year would be changed to July 1-June 30 to match the school year calendar. This is included as part of the revision to the bylaws.
- There is a need for a strategic plan regarding the remaining cash balance. This includes further decisions to be made about what programs to allocate funds to and how much to allocate to each.

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- 2015 will be a deficit spend year of an estimated \$60,000, but because of cash reserves that has been built up over the last ten years, the organization is fiscally sound. The plan is to use the reserve cash balance to cover the deficit, while increasing efforts in increasing revenue through new fundraising efforts.
- The revised budget is easier to read and compares income and expenses. There is an added column to reflect the difference between the proposed budget and actuals in “15 v 14.” The last two columns will be updated for each quarterly report.
- The total income line shows a decrease of \$80,000 which is due to the Community Brunch not occurring next year. The Signature event needs to reflect the fact that there will be no Community Brunch. To account for this, the Signature Fundraising Event committee has set an achievable, yet stretch goal of a 15% increase from last year. The income goal will increase, but expenses for the event are expected to remain the same. This was deemed appropriate by the Finance Ad Hoc committee.
- There was a projected deficit of \$60,000 for this year. This will come out of the cash reserves.
- The budget format is currently intended to be performance based to report if goals were or were not met.

The Board opened discussion regarding the following:

- Will the deficit continue each year?
 - Spending decisions, fundraising efforts, and revisions to the process should discontinue the deficit of mode of spending.
- Ways to increase revenue with new fundraising ideas:
 - Fundraisers that are jointly sponsored by the Ed Foundation and the school districts?
 - Looking at the possibility of fundraising events that take a regional approach through local businesses, organizations, and school districts. This would be a similar format as the Community Brunch or another substitute.
 - The goal is to acquire more large sponsors rather than having multiple small events.
 - Approach working with other organizations and foundations as a win-win and why it would be good to collaborate.
- Ways to impact more students in the county. Increasing the Stanislaus County presence with groups in order to build a donor base.

Amy Neumann motioned to approve the 2015 Operating Budget. Christine Baily seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

By-Laws: Revisions Proposal (See Attached)

Sue Rich discussed the revisions to the by-laws. The way the by-laws are currently written, the Board must vote to approve revisions at a regular meeting. They will be emailed to the Board and there will be a motion to approve at the next quarterly meeting in May.

Board Terms

- Only require TB test, not DOJ/Live scan unless the Board members would be alone with kids in some capacity (pending legal counsel).
- Language is needed around expectations of attendance, participation, and support of Board members.
- The Board needs the power to call a closed session. For SCOE, it must be personnel related matters or sale or purchase of real property; everything else has to be open to public. This will be confirmed with a lawyer. The letter and numbering order was also incorrect.
- The Board approved the added language regarding Board member removal. The Board agreed that there should be the ability to appropriately to remove a Board member if they are not attending or upholding the expectations as defined.
- Expectations should be defined for the Chair-Elect, which include: serving on the Advisory Board, serving six year term, and all other duties of Board members as described.
- There should be language added to give the Board the ability to call special meetings. Further discussion is needed on how to convene a special meeting. Pg. 6 gives ability to take any action without a meeting, which could include amendment of the bylaws. This should be consistent and will be reviewed by legal counsel. The Board agreed that

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a two-thirds vote is acceptable, even though past practice has been 100%.

New Fiscal Year

- Language needs to be revised to reflect the change in fiscal year; spending Board approval at the May 7, 2015 meeting. In the by-laws, the May meeting would become a full day planning meeting and the November meeting would be changed from all day to a two hour meeting. In 2015, the May 7, 2015 meeting will be extended from a two hour meeting to a four hour meeting.
- If approved, a new budget will be presented by the Ad Hoc finance committee at the May 7th meeting.

Trustees vs. Friends

- The Board agreed that further discussion is needed to define and title this role appropriately.
- Is the role of this position to populate committees or mainly to recognize individuals for their support?
- This role could be for engaged community members who would support events/fundraising efforts, but are not quite ready to sign on as a full Board member. Further discussion is needed to define this role and policies associated.
- Suggestions for title included:
 - “Beneficiaries and Friends of the Foundation (BFFs)
 - “Board Member Emeritus” which is defined as a “retired person of distinction”
 - “Board Trustee” reflects and recognizes that a huge past gift was made or that the person continues to provide significant financial support.
 - “Friend” may be too vague or not as professional.
 - “Trustee” could signify past service on the Board and BFF could be appropriate when recruiting new members to gauge their level of participation or support.
- Categories and title for each role will be discussed at the next Advisory Board meeting in February.

Committee Reports

Kathy Hobby discussed the New Fundraising Efforts Committee and the Signature Event Committee.

- **New Fundraising Efforts:** The first committee meeting will occur on February 20, 2015, from 2-3:30 at SCOE. Discussion included: brainstorming new ways to increase revenue and positively impact more students in Stanislaus County. One idea that Kathy mentioned was a campaign to increase campaigns like the Employees Give Back Program with local businesses.
- **Signature Event:** The first committee meeting occurred on February 5, 2015. The Fundraising Dinner will occur on September 10, 2015, at the Duarte Home. The price for to purchase a table will be \$750 and premium table for \$1500. Five caterers will be asked to submit a bid and a final decision will be made within the next few months.

Program Ambassador Update (See Attached)

- **YES Company:** Melanee Wyatt shared thank you photographs of the students, thank you letters, and art from the students.
- **Student Events:** Cheryl Goulart gave an update about Student Events, including: Mock Trials, Future Cities and Academic Decathlon.
- **Outdoor Education:** Jessica Hewitt shared thank you cards from the students at Outdoor Education.

Closing/Important Dates (See Upcoming Meeting Dates handout)

Thursday, May 7 – 8:00am-12:00pm, SCOE Boardroom

Thursday, August 13 – 8:00am-10:00am, Peterson Event Center Rooms 1 & 2

Friday, November 20 – ALL DAY (*pending decisions about the fiscal year*), Location TBA