

Minutes

Board Meeting

South HS Media Center – December 9, 2008

1. Call to order

Harold Benson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following board members were present:

- Harold Benson, Elmer Koch, George Dahl, Art Lakoduk, Rod Hemstreet, Steve Lindquist, Judy Ayers
- Members, Guests & Others Attending: Carol Peterson, Jim Bloom, Linda Nelson, Melvin Haagenson

2. Minutes

Motion by Elmer K to **approve the minutes** of the November 11 meeting. Second by George D. **CARRIED.**

3. Treasurer's Report – Steve Lindquist

- Checking: \$14,072
- Investments: \$140,068
- Relationship Rewards \$150,167
- Certificates of Deposit \$126,912
- Reserved/Restricted: \$398,326
- Available Funds: \$32,893
- Receipts from the fall newsletter were disappointing. They were not even close to meeting the expense of producing the newsletter. This may be a sign of things to come. Added another account, with a 3.8% return. Spoke with Joe Kingberg on the \$10k granted last month [*All Nations*]. Joe will provide a schedule of when funds will be needed, per the last meeting approval for the grant.
- **MOTION** by Rod H. to **accept the Treasurer's report**. Seconded by Judy A. **CARRIED.**
- Quickbooks Merchant Account

4. Reports:

A. **Administration:** Linda Nelson (AP) – Our enrollment is staying up. The district is talking about a big budget shortfall. The Asst Assoc Superintendent is trying to get more money for high schools, and didn't know if the state budget shortfall may mean problems. Classes are too big, and unless we get some help we will have issues. The referendum passed which will help. Save the Tiger (STT) is meeting on Thursday to work on a campaign. Southwest is aiming for \$225,000 from their parents. Donations are down this year. The annual give letter is going out tomorrow. We are getting funding from a variety of other areas, so STT funds will be held until absolutely needed. Purchasing a CD with the funds will be postponed for now, since we don't know the status of our need for the funds. Two parents are professional fundraisers and will be working with STT committee. The committee would like to allow people to use credit cards or debit, rather than write checks. Linda will look into an appropriate grand opening date for the Field House. The groundbreaking is March 25 at 2:45. This is when most students will be available. Maybe the weather will cooperate.

B. **Site Council:** Melvin H. - There is a 94% graduation rate, which is the highest ever. For 08-09, the 11th graders have to pass this test, which includes algebra. Math is the main issue, reading and writing do have disparities. Did receive some Title 1 money. 8th grade shadowing is currently happening. Site Council needs more members.

C. Committees:

STRATEGIC PLANNING – Elmer Koch: SEE REPORT. Elmer started with this statement: "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there!" We began with WHAT the Foundation should do in the future, and HOW to use our resources. The committee determined that the two most urgent items under weaknesses were 1) Membership and 2) Revenue. The board now needs to take the lead. The committee needs the board's input to help set goals and narrow the priorities. The only members we have are voting members, as defined by the by-laws. We have contributing members. Membership needs to be clarified. The active members of the Foundation are the people serving on committees. Perhaps participant is a better word. This will all be addressed during the next phase of the planning process.

GRANTS – George Dahl: Received a thank you from the Spanish class for supplemental readers.

- South High Counseling Office: \$488.31 to purchase the food for the Financial Aid Night. Committee Approved.
- Athletic Department, Mark Sanders: \$12,353 (payable in December, March, and May). Annual request. He's attempting to increase participation for students by adding C squads.
Motion by George D. to **approve \$12,350 for coaches**. Second by Elmer K. It is increased from prior years, but isn't a lot of money when spread around to all the different sports available. Mark will provide participation numbers in the future so the board can know the impact. South HS can go over to Jordan Park to pick out available athletic equipment.
CARRIED.

When we get responses for the grants we need to forward to Carol P, in order to track funding and impact. Also writing grants for the programs.

SCHOLARSHIPS – Elmer Koch: SEE REPORT. There is a new counselor in the office. He is the lead for scholarships. The meeting went very well. The counselors will get the applications and information packets ready so students have the information by February 13. The applications are due back by April 2.

COMMUNICATION – Harold (*Position is open*): Judy Pihlstrom can no longer serve as Communication Chair or Secretary. If anyone is interested, or knows someone who may be interested, please contact Harold.

MEMBERSHIP – Art Lakoduk: SEE REPORT. It is going to be difficult to broaden the membership. But this is a high priority. Encouragement of Membership and participant growth is #1, according to the board.

5. Old Business

- The Holiday Newsletter mailed, along with the special Appeal Letter inserts for 875 of the newsletters. A credit card selection was added to the form.
- Web Site Software: Carol P – Still reviewing the software package for the web, which had been approved for \$400. I have issues I need to address with my desktop. Also, trying to get a minimal cost as it can run upwards of \$600. Dennis Fazio is checking into the software. Art L. will also check into it.
- Online Newsletter: Carol P – Have been attempting to work with a free online service for creating an online newsletter to the database. The results have been very lacking. A survey of parent groups and other organizations led to "Constant Contact", which is a fee service that has templates and a number of user-defined options. It has a user-friendly interface. Tracks responses, to links in the newsletter. Who opens, automatically unsubscribes members, and allows members to update their own information (email, address, phone, whatever we indicate). Monthly cost would be \$26 per month (\$312 annual payment). This would include unlimited upload of photos & graphics for use in newsletters, and unlimited mailings during any given month. We can use the service to send announcements and invitations, as well as newsletters. Examples of templates available were given. Carol will work on bringing an example for the next meeting.

6. New Business

- NFL Grassroots Program RFP: Carol P: A Grant Proposal Request was forwarded to us by Minneapolis Public Schools, from the NFL Grassroots Program. It has three levels of request, we will be targeting the lower level, for \$50,000 which covers buildings and amenities for the field. The grant is due on December 15.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM. The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, January 13.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Peterson, Admin Support

By Order of:
Harold Benson, Chair

HB_____ JP_____