

ASDF Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 1, 2021

Called by Dan Bosket

Type of Meeting: General Board Meeting

Note Taker: Maria Tjeltveit

Attendees: Julie Ambrose, Susan Williams, Vicki Newhard, Dan Bosket, Angela Nolan, Josh Dodd, Maria Tjeltveit, Dennis Blankowitsch, Mike Bruckner, Pete Kareha, Ellen Kern, Kay Kurtz Nancy Wilt, Jane Marks, Rashid Santiago, Rob Schmidt, John Stevens, Ralph Todd, Lucretia Brown, Jennifer Ramos, Dick Button (absent: Thomas Parker, Tonya Harris, Don Hinkle)

Agenda Topics

Call to Order:

Dan Bosket called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM

Gave a shout out to Susan Williams and to the student MCs for the High Notes Gala

Topic and Presenter: Motion to Approve Board Nominations – ASD Co-Designees:
Dr. Lucretia Brown, Deputy Superintendent, & Jennifer Ramos, Deputy Superintendent
Dan Bosket

Discussion: Superintendent Parker recommended that Dr. Brown and Ms. Ramos start attending the Board meetings now, for continuity when he leaves. Dan welcomed them. For now, the motion is to add the two Deputy Superintendents but have them share one vote.

Dan thanked Jenn for tour of new school and suggested board members also get a tour.

Motion: 1st Dan, 2nd, Mike

Conclusion: Approved Unanimously

Topic and Presenter: Motion to Approve February Minutes (A) Maria Tjeltveit

Discussion: None

Motion: 1st Josh, 2nd John

Conclusion: Approved

Topic and Presenter: Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report (B) Joshua Dodd

Discussion: Dan thanked Josh's wife for the Dieruff Choir virtual piece at High Notes.

Josh: Had great attendance at Finance meeting on Zoom. Thanked everyone on the committee.

Moving into budget season. Will be a challenge with COVID continuing.

EITC contributions a little bit of a concern. We are behind for this year. Embassy Bank could get us close to where we want to be but we haven't heard from them.

Susan mentioned that we received \$2500 EITC from QNBC (lower than average)
Pure donations, people just giving money, is higher. Annual Appeal is higher.

Conduit expenses: money going through this year is \$2,000,000+
This creates some higher costs, for audit and increase in dues for National School Foundation Association. Shows need to collect for conduit. Have a recommended fee policy in place but have not been following it.

Additional expenses: Some overlap for 2 Executive Directors. PPP will help with payroll expenses.

Josh will stay on another year but is asking Finance members consider stepping forward to take over the Treasurer position.

Motion made to approve Treasurer's Report: 1st Rob, 2nd Dennis

Conclusion: Approved

Topic and Presenter: **Motion to Approve of Scholarship Distribution Rate of 5% for 2020-21** **Richard Schmidt, Dick Button**

Discussion:

Richard: Thanked Josh for guidance.

Performance has been strong this year so recommend a 5% draw \$23,857 for this year.

Dick clarified that the distribution rate is set every year.

Motion made to approve 5% distribution rate for Scholarships for 2020-21: 1st Mike, 2nd John

Conclusion: Approved

Topic and Presenter: **Executive Director Report** **Julie Ambrose**

Discussion:

Congratulations Angela and Dan

Dan recognized by Lehigh Valley Business as one of its "Power 100"

Angela was named one of 38 Lehigh Valley Women of Influence

ASD Reopening of School Buildings (D)

Will be reopening schools in April

Lucretia: hybrid instructional model. No more than 10,000 students so can socially distance.

A survey was sent out and families could identify their preferences. When it was paused March 16, there were about 6,000 students opting for hybrid, 5,000 for remote. Will reopen survey after Easter break, to incorporate more students safely.

Jennifer: All buildings getting updates. Thomas Smith did an analysis of all classrooms and repaired all HVAC units. Isolation rooms with ionization units: those parts won't be in until June. Will still be doing updates through summer.

Mission Moment – HMMS Science Fair

Mr. Santanam and his daughter Syria, donated materials to start an after-school Science Fair mentor program. Jessica Donahue, 8th grade science teacher will oversee. Adeeb Saed who was

helped by a Muhlenberg faculty member when he did the Science Fair, is now at Muhlenberg College and will return as a mentor.

Dr. Frank and Yvonne Schweighardt also gave money for Science Fair

Grant Applications

-McKesson Corp: (pharma) Hand sanitizer. 9 pallets of 8 oz bottles of hand sanitizer.

Going to Facilities not sure when it will arrive

-Wawa: Recognizing teachers and ASD staff. Grant request to fully supply \$5 Wawa gift cards for every employee in district. Will let us know when she hears.

Dan—background Mr. Parker, not just Teacher Recognition but all employees. We were holding back to let admin take the lead. Jenn: makes sense to recognize all the staff, especially since some are essential workers.

Jane: is there a plan B if Wawa doesn't come through? Maybe we can have a conversation at the May Executive Council meeting about what to do

-Iron Pigs: Community Days and activities. Request to be a participant. Different drives: Backpacks, musical instruments, sports equipment.

Topic and Presenter: High Notes Gala Wrap-Up Susan Williams

Discussion: Board member recruitment: Don Weiand (Stevens & Lee) He is giving serious consideration. William Allen grad. He could be a perfect person to lead the Governance Committee. Good liaison for Rotary. Erika Sutherland said yes. She is the Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and Associate Professor of Spanish, at Muhlenberg College. Good for literacy programs.

Mike congratulated Susan on the Gala!

Susan: A lot of fun because could focus just on this. Pleased with the videos. 4 student MC's were terrific. Jennifer Dodd's virtual choir was a great ending.

132 viewers last night

Fund raising \$63,000. Wanted to get to \$80,000. She thinks Air Products donated \$5200 during show, through Benevity Cause. If that's true, got us to \$68,000.

Kept costs down, \$6300 for the video, so net was better.

Vicki: PrintForce costs will have to be covered

Think video has marketability; could be used again to promote the arts.

As this is Susan's last meeting, she thanked everyone. Dan thanked her but said we will continue to keep her involved.

Topic and Presenter: Planning & Program Committee Update Ralph Todd

Discussion:

Susan started this committee whose purpose to seek out programs that help students and are sustainable. Ideas from students, teachers, TIG program. Committee: 2 ASD personnel, 2 ASDF personnel, community, (including Barry Halper, first ASDF pres.) Waiting to hear back from people. Hope to have a slate of candidates for next month. 8 members.

Topic and Presenter: Middle School Transformation Updates

- **Harrison-Morton** **Mike Bruckner & John Stevens**
- **Raub** **Maria Tjeltveit**
- **South Mountain** **Dennis Blankowitsch**
- **Trexler** **Ralph Todd**

Discussion:

Mike and John: Meeting with principal: Emphasis on academics, behavior, recognition of teachers, connecting with parents. Meeting April 12 for interviews with potential Transformation Partners. Vision Mission and goals to synthesize feedback. Maybe volunteers for local colleges to mentor students who need extra help. 18 people at the meeting.

Maria: Met in March. Emphasis on Raub culture, embodying values and vision; progress for individuals in math and English language arts. Making good progress. Have Raub Ravens of the Month. Teachers able to work one on one with students because of being virtual. Teachers more willing to change because there is so much change right now.

Dennis: Very impressed with SM parents involved with good questions and comments. Info on Partners Interviews next week. Enthusiasm is there Looking for guidance from community and parents to move forward. By end of April will have identified a Transformation Partner.

Ralph: Meeting 2 wks ago. Echo other reports. Looking forward for interviews William Seng is going to do a weekly update with what’s happening with all 4 middle schools Bob Morrow is new principal at Trexler.

Topic and Presenter: **Funding Request: MS Transformation (E) Vicki Newhard**
Discussion:

Board Reps from Harrison Morton and Raub Transformation Teams presented projects to reward students for \$500, (with offers to match from the reps). Vicki proposed that we offer this for each middle school.

Kay: **Moved that we give \$2,000 for special student incentives to the four middle schools.**
(\$500 per school)

Dan said he was first Student Council president at Trexler so will make a donation!

Motion: Kay, 2nd Nancy

Conclusion: Approved

Topic and Presenter: Motion to Approve Funding Request: **RBI Program for up to \$10,000 (F) **Dan Bosket, Julie Ambrose****

Discussion:

Julie: Rob Leskosky using baseball program for student retention. Multi-season program. To involve students who would have been cut from a team. Practice, mentoring, game situations.

Dan: Getting calls from the parents of youth directly, showing improved academics through program. Concerned about recruitment of our students by charter school athletic teams. Supporting programs like these can help with keeping students in our district. Has support from ASD and community.

Request is Up to \$10,000. Don't have to pay out all at once If we get any donations, can put toward this. He is working on bringing in some funds.

Josh: We have some funds since not funding some other programs.

Large request but would not be setting a precedent. Each request based on merit and available funds.

City of Allentown is encouraging this program to bring baseball back.

Motion: 1st Mike, 2nd Nancy

Conclusion: Approved by majority of Board

Topic and Presenter: **Administrator's Update** **Vicki Newhard**

Discussion:

Science Fair

Not happening in ASD because of hands-on nature of projects, but plan to do it next year. Will use the funds from Trexler Trust for that.

Music Residency – Bach to School

1300 5th graders treated to a Bach Choir virtually (usually in person at Allen). Help to send out the learning material. \$2000 toward mailings (approved by Exec Council). EITC funds apply.

Art Residency – WAHS Mural

Lana Gonzalez, Allen grad and counselor intern: having students create a welcoming mural at Allen showing diversity. \$2500 for mural. (Approved at Ex Council). EITC funds apply.

Topic and Presenter: **Any other items?**

Discussion: June 3 Annual Retreat 7:30 a.m.-12: p.m.

By a show of hands, most board members are willing to meet in person.

Because Muhlenberg College (normal meeting space) is not accepting outside groups, it was proposed to meet at Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays Elementary School, and move the meeting to Wednesday, June 2, since there are no students in the building on Wednesdays. Jenn will explore this. A majority of the board are able to make it on June 2.

Topic and Presenter: **Motion to Adjourn** **Dan Bosket**

Discussion:

Move to approve: 1st: Nancy 2nd: Mike

Meeting adjourned at: 9:17

(A-F are attachments)

Next Board Meeting: Annual Retreat on June 3
Tentatively 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.