

Board of Governors

**Sobriety High School**

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

4:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present: Paul McGlynn, Chet Johnson, Bruce Santerre, Bob Doffing,

Alan Braun, Joe Covert, Dan Ondich, Crystal McAninch

Staff: Barb Wornson, Debbie Bolton, Judi Hanson, Julie Wettstein

Guests: Cathie Hartnett – Sobriety High Foundation

**4:00 Call to Order**

Bob Doffing

**Mission Statement Reminder**

Bob Doffing

**Introductions**

Bob Doffing

**Approvals**

- Agenda – added annual meeting and student transportation policy under Executive Director’s report
- Minutes
- Check Register
- Donations
- Employee Agreements – Amy Berentson, Hannah Cushing, Katie Gruchalla, Amy Heeren, Mary Popelka, Pat Rasmussen, Michelle Rust, Julie Wettstein, Chet Johnson.
- School Psychologist – signed Susan Kelley’s contract for another year without an increase in fees.

*A motion to approve the employee agreements was made by Bruce and seconded by Dan.*

**ACTION: ADOPTED**

*A motion to approve the agenda, minutes, check register, donations, school psychologist was made by Dan, second by Paul.*

**ACTION: ADOPTED**

**Financial Reports**

- We did not have anyone at the meeting to go over the financial statements.

**Finance Committee Report**

Bruce Santerre

- The bottom of the dashboard shows where our actual money is coming from. We are in decent shape.
- We are at 140 students right now and a year ago we were at 145. Our budget is based on 185 ADM; we bumped it up from 180.
- Fees – from a revenue stand point and were hoping to collect \$11,000 in fees and this seems to be moving forward okay with no resistance. We have one out of state student who is paying tuition.
- The Board asked Barb to put together a memo of understanding between SHS and The Braun Foundation; it was well written so all parties of interest are protected. The Board should have a copy of this just to review.
- We had a conversation about donations. The big issue is that the way the budget reports donations makes it difficult to know what is really available to spend from donations. We asked SBS to figure out what we have at the beginning of the year and we will start tracking it every time money comes in and money goes out.
- Keep in mind when looking at how much is left in the budget, current financials are always a month behind.
- Barb and Robbie investigated the cost of our phone system – total phone cost per year is \$25,000. We will ask Syand to come back and present to some staff before anything is decided and bring it back to the board. Bob is meeting with another company on Friday to compare cost.

- Board agenda structure – possibility of students hoping to express their viewpoint on open lunch. Should we adopt something for when someone wants to bring something up at a meeting? There are benefits both ways. It is a public meeting and you don't have to open it to let people talk anytime they want to, but our job is to represent everyone and they should be given the opportunity to speak. Its convenient to have them present in the beginning. There is also a difference between someone coming to give feedback or adding an agenda item. When we have big-ticket items on the agenda, we tend to talk in circular way and it could steer the board in a bad direction. We need to do it in the beginning of the meeting and can be open about it for parents showing up late. We should have a policy.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Barb Wornson

- First Week of school – quite eventful, we have the most incredible staff.
- A-team Report – Barb, Judi, Debbie now have a schedule and Barb is traveling to campuses 3 days a week. We made schedule for fire drills, etc. Barb is applying for grants.
- Annual Meeting – need to write annual report by October. We need to know when our annual meeting is and when we do elections. We have to have board elections and adopt new members as board voted. We have board members that have left so we should see what is a more manageable number of members and make a recommendation as a bylaws committee. Bob has the bylaws with the members update as of June.
- Julie, Bob, Chet, Judi, Alan, Barb are the bylaws committee. The bylaws committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22 at 4:00 p.m. at central office.
- It was decided that our Annual Meeting will be held in December.

*Motion to have annual meeting in December by Paul, second by Bruce.*

### **ACTION: ADOPTED**

- Student Transportation Policy – we need to develop a transportation policy. We can pay to transport kids but we don't have to. Barb will write it up and have the board review it.
- There is a license sharing of subjects so we should have a form to document approval from the subject teacher. Barb and Robbie will create.
- Debbie is going to mandated reporting refresher.

### **Community/Family Outreach Report**

Judi Hanson

- Judi has filled in for the recovery counselor at Maplewood and has been working with the recovery counselor in Burnsville; was available to students at Edina.
- Getting involved with all student councils and is organizing the PTO groups with parent chairs. Helping with Fall Ball.
- Connecting with groups to spread the word, meeting with the new foundation more, working with Edina high school CD counselor, mailing brochures, working with Joe on talent show to make a fundraiser, working with Dr. Phil show regarding a film project students did over summer school on prescription drug abuse.

### **Campus Director Report**

Campus Directors

- North Summit – we are figuring out who is coming and who moved on, have almost all seniors, Phoenix is opening a new house for transition program. Fall Ball coming up for Mpls/St. Paul recovery schools, flier is being worked on. New staff working out really well.
- West – things going really well, numbers are really low and are working on getting numbers up. Had student council elections, new teachers working out well. Had first field trip and did ropes course. Postcards are done and 1000 printed, labels done and need postage and are out – being sent to physicians, mental health, churches, etc. covers half of metro – PTOs worked on it.
- Alliance – retained spring/summer school students, partnership with Anthony Lewis center for current treatment kids, using PSO and Judi to advantage.

- Arona – new staff excellent, intakes are slow, working on PTO and student council so referring parents to Judi.
- Thanks to Paul for helping with all special ed teachers.
- Debbie is meeting with POs to let them know we have 4 campuses. She is meeting with students and parents to diagnose mental health.
- We are handling relapses really well.

### **Student Enrollment Comparison**

Robbie Deering

- Enrollment last year as of 9/16 was 150 and is 141 this year.
  - North Summit – 2009 (43), 2010 (38)
  - West – 2009 (31), 2010 (28)
  - Arona – 2009 (31), 2010 (32)
  - Alliance – 2009 (40), 2010 (43)

### **Board Chair Report**

Bob Doffing

- By-laws – we discussed having the meeting on Tuesday, September 22 at 4:00 p.m. at the central office. Bylaws committee is Julie, Bob, Chet, Judi, Alan, Barb.
- Board Elections – annual meeting is in December so we need to start asking for people now. Put something on the website to have nominations submitted. Announcement for election needs to be posted for 30 days. Request nominations to be in by October 13th. Elections are done by November 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Check on what are requirements for elections at annual meeting. There shouldn't be a majority group representing our board.
- Board needs to have board training.
- Fundraising board committee – we are open to raise our own money and Judi will be perfect chair for it. Think about people to be on this committee. Work with former foundation board members.
- Feasibility Study (reducing campuses) – talk about different options and see what parents would be interested in, would it address losing students over the summer, would it save any money – multiple perspectives (parent, administrative, financially), create a survey that is reviewed board to make sure bias aren't listed.

*Motion to have Barb create a feasibility study looking at multiple alternative delivery models for Sobriety High's future made by Dan, second by Paul.*

### **Other Business**

- Foundation board has gone through discussion of what is our purpose, where are we going with this, etc. Recovery schools are high on the agenda for the government drug policy. There isn't currently a national funding advocacy group and is a growing desire for colleges/universities to create programs. Design for new foundation with a national coverage with a new name based in MN, national board of directors, two primary missions to raise money to fund treatment for adolescents and to support recovery schools around country. Board agreed it makes sense and will be complete by the end of the year. Its not clear why the foundation existed to raise money for the charter school. They will not be out soliciting and having money raised for our charter school directly. There will be an all state meeting of all recovery schools with travel and expenses paid by the new foundation and an all recovery school retreat paid by the new foundation. The State will be attending/monitoring and will hopefully generate more dollars coming to recovery schools in MN. There will be signing of rights for the Sobriety High name and etc. and the foundation will continue to pay for the office that administrative staff are in.
- Judi will send Robbie reception invitation and she'll send to SHS board and email Cathie if you are going to attend.
- Free webinar through Hazelden that Robbie will forward to the board.

- We should look at our teacher schedules because being down teachers and its tough first quarter and its only going to be tougher later on when we have more students.

**Meeting Dates:** All meetings are 4:00-6:30 at the Central Office unless other wise noted.  
October 21, November 18, December 16, January 20, February 17,  
March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16

**Adjournment**