



NEO Board Meeting July 25, 2019

In attendance: Debbie Birch, Isaac Carr, Eva Ludwiczuk, Mark Lutze, Alicia Rios, and Paul Schreiner

Absent: Marie Robinson

Also in Attendance: Rebecca Reiner, Jennifer Jennings, Brooke Allen

Debbie called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM

Introduction: Rebecca introduced Brooke Allen, the newly hired Development and Communication Coordinator. Brooke presented the new web site and some biographical info: seven years as English teacher; went into marketing and now at NEO. The presentation was very impressive.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Director's report: Rebecca highlighted improved high school attendance, explained discipline data; and raised the issue of student retention. "We lost 150 students this years...about half of our population." Most loss was due to students' need to work, according to Rebecca. She also commented that the new "Pathways" to graduation will impact the school grade positively. Mark raised a question regarding discipline. This year's high rate of expulsions was due to drugs and vaping. Debbie raised a question about enrollment. Rebecca responded that the budget was based on 230 students even though the state's basing it on 247 students. Excess funding was being saved to reimburse the state. Rebecca listed personnel needs and that applicants can apply on-line.

Financial Reports: The financial report for May-June was reviewed. Rebecca commented that Quick Books data was still "rough," but improving, getting closer to accurate. The form 9 will be submitted on time this year. Marie had emailed the Board prior to the meeting that she had reviewed the bank and credit card statements and no improprieties were found. Alicia move to accept the financial reports. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Audit: A motion was made to engage Donovan and Associates to do this year's audit which is funded by Ball State. The motion passed.

Conflict of Interest: Rebecca passed out conflict of interest statements to be reviewed by the board and signed at the August Board meeting.

Sun FundED Presentation: Kelly Hipskind and Patrick Poer, representatives of SunFundED, were introduced. Isaac had reviewed the Service Contract. After substantial re-writing, he was happy with the language and recommended approval. He presented three substantial areas of concern with the original document: Limitation on damages, Termination payment and Triggering of termination payment. After some discussion, he concluded that all concerns had been resolved in the collaborative

rewriting. Kelly outlined educational activities provided to the school. He then listed steps from start to finish for the proposed generation of solar powered electricity:

1. Signing preliminary contract – Done
2. Site investigation – being done
3. Signing Service Contract (the one Isaac reviewed – where we're at now)
4. Procurement of permits
5. Underwriting of funding with investors
6. Issuing of Notice to Proceed (NTP) by underwriters
7. Construction

After # 3 is completed, 2 – 3 months will be consumed getting to NTP and then construction will commence. Construction could consume 2 – 3 months. Alicia asked about the appearance of the solar field. It was agreed that Isaac will forward the revised Service Contract to all members of the board. A motion was made and passed to approve the Service Contract pending email approval of Service Contract by a majority of the board.

Let it be noted that all Board Members reviewed and approved this agreement via emails between July 25 and August 2, 2019.

Bylaws: Rebecca has sent out bylaws for board review and approval at the August Board meeting.

Board Development: The issue of board development was raised as the last agenda topic. Rebecca asked what direction was desired by the board. Several responses were generated which all had to do with the relationship between the NEO Director and the board. It was agreed by all present that up to this point, Rebecca has been the visionary and dominant influence at board meetings. Given her statement that her tenure would likely last another five years, it was hinted that the board should develop a greater leadership role. It was recommended that board members send questions to Rebecca between now and the August meeting to resolve areas needing illumination and that the board development session take place during the September meeting.

Grant Approval: Rebecca requested Board approval to write and submit grants that support the current goals and functions of the organization as reflected in the annual budget, school improvement and strategic plans. Mark moved to approve the submission of these grants for 2019-2020. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Schreiner, Board Secretary