

ACADEMIC MAGNET FOUNDATION
Minutes of Public Meeting of the Board of Directors
Academic Magnet High School, North Charleston, SC
June 9, 2014

PRESENT: Doug Berger
Lara LeRoy*
Jimmy Rawls
Scott Shubert
Michael Soltys
Cliff Woods

ABSENT: Stephen Howe
Jennie Smith
Hallie Seibels
Susan Leadem

BY INVITATION: Christen Hall, President, Partners In Education
Tonya McIntyre, AMHS Mathematics Department Faculty
Judith Peterson, AMHS Principal
Sarah Winters, Treasurer, Partners In Education

Clifford Woods opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. He acknowledged the participation of Principal Judith Peterson and Tonya McIntyre (of the AMHS Mathematics Department and May 2014 “Teacher of the Month” of the Charleston County School District). He also expressed great appreciation for the representation of AMHS Partners In Education (PIE) by both its President Christen Hall and Treasurer Sarah Winters.

Treasurer’s Report & Election of Ms. Lara LeRoy to the Board of Directors

Acknowledging the full agenda, Mr. Woods requested just two brief orders of business. As the first, Scott Shubert provided his treasurer’s report including the note that AMF bank balances presently stood at \$71,259.48.

Mr. Woods then noted the recent vote unanimously in favor of electing Lara LeRoy to the board of directors. *Ms. LeRoy graciously accepted the position, which became effective immediately.

Summer Scholars Institute

Mr. Woods then moved to a principle topic of the meeting, the new AMHS Summer Scholars Institute (SSI) – a 4-day, academic and orientation program for the benefit all incoming AMHS freshman program created by the AMHS principal and faculty. He noted that, at a prior board meeting, the Foundation had committed to a minimum, three-year funding for this program in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 annually. That approval, however, was conditioned upon an offer to PIE to partner with the Foundation in funding this new program, in hopes that the two support groups could jointly fund SSI, reinforcing their complimentary missions to support AMHS.

Ms. Peterson and Ms. McIntyre then reviewed the rationale and draft syllabus for the SSI program, beginning with the observation that many new students to AMHS find the demands of high school more rigorous than anticipated and, at times, overwhelming. Ms. McIntyre noted that the freshman class of 2014-2015 will have approximately 180 students. Registration forms for the new SSI program will be sent out on the 19th of June, and the deadline for registration is July the 10th. The goal is to have a minimum of 100 students registered for the program, which will run from Monday, July 21st through Thursday, July 24th. Ms. McIntyre noted further that the timing for the SSI in late July provides an opportunity to for AMHS teachers to “check in” with the new high school students about their summer work.

Most importantly, Ms. McIntyre explained, SSI will help incoming freshman better understand the school’s expectations and methodologies in all “core” subjects (mathematics, science, English, and global studies). Further, it will provide a review so students are better prepared when the school year begins. Two teachers from each department will teach each review session. In addition, there are team-building exercises and games planned each day, including a ropes course for the entire group on the final day. Ms. McIntyre also provided a draft syllabus of for the program.

Ms. Peterson concluded the presentation by highlighting that budgeting constraints had forced AMHS to cut much of its orientation programs in recent years. Eventually, PIE provided all funding for the limited programs that could take place. “This is what our ‘AP Money’ (State funding) used to pay for. This is an activity that we lost, and we are looking to reconstitute it with your support.” Further, the SSI program “now expands far beyond our orientation programs of the past.”

All expressed thanks to Ms. McIntyre and Ms. Peterson for creating this new SSI program. After brief discussion, Ms. Hall and Ms. Winters noted that PIE had already budgeted some funding to assist with the AMHS orientation program this year. While noting the SSI’s funding

requirements are greater than amounts budgeted, Ms. Hall and Ms. Winters expressed confidence that their board of directors would support a partnership with the Foundation to fund this summer's program.

Ms. Peterson and all Foundation board members expressed appreciation to PIE for this possible joint venture for the 2014-2015 school year, and hopefully beyond.

Chinese Language Program

Ms. Peterson then provided an update about AMHS' new academic course offering in Chinese language, which is being funded by the Foundation. She reported that a professor from the College of Charleston will be teaching Chinese 101. It is a semester-long, college-level course being taught at the AMHS campus. Enrollment is open to all 10th, 11th, 12th graders. Twelve students have so far expressed great interest in taking the new course, though scheduling constraints will likely reduce that number to 8-10 students for this first semester.

Committee Updates

With regards to Development, Ms. Woods noted the proposed corporate sponsorship involving First Citizens and the State Ports Authority, and Ms. Peterson described the progress of a recent series of meetings with Tom Trouche of First Citizens and with Hallie Seibels on behalf of the Foundation. Separately, Mr. Shubert highlighted the need to more comprehensively pursue additional corporate sponsorships, as he had recently proposed in correspondence with the board of directors.

On the subject of School Needs, Michael Soltys noted his continuing efforts to meet with AMHS department heads.

With regards to Communications and Marketing, Jimmy Rawls provided an update about the new Facebook page for the Foundation, which is also an outreach tool for AMHS alumni. Mr. Woods also provided a draft end-of-year letter for the Board's review. He added that PIE had kindly offered to distribute the Foundation's letter via the Raptor Report distribution list.

Other Business

Joint Support Groups Meeting

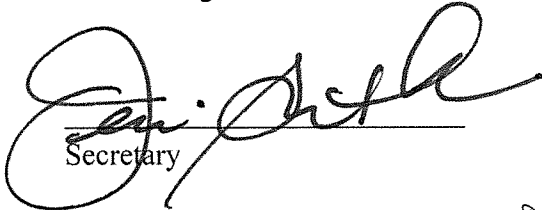
The board and PIE representatives then discussed possible dates for a meeting between all four of the AMHS support groups – PIE, AMF, the School Improvement Council, and the Booster

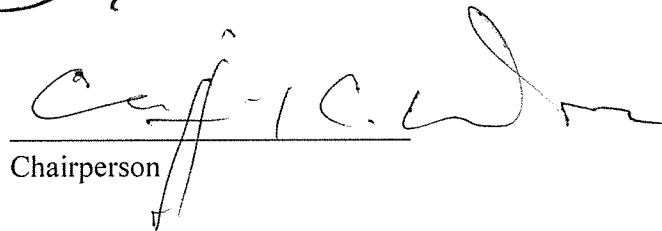
Club. It was unanimously agreed to target Monday, July 21st as the best date for the meeting, conditional upon the acceptance of that date by both SIC and BC representatives. Ms. McIntyre kindly offered to provide an update about the success of the first day of SSI, as it would be the same day as the proposed meeting date. Mr. Woods offered to “shop the date” with all parties, and respond to all participants thereafter to confirm the meeting.

Next Board Meeting Dates: August 11 & September 8th.

The Foundation board of directors then agreed to hold its next meetings on the Monday evenings: July 21st, August 11th, and September 8th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Secretary


Chairperson