

ACADEMIC MAGNET FOUNDATION
Minutes of Public Meeting of the Board of Directors
Academic Magnet High School, North Charleston, SC
May 12, 2014

PRESENT:

Doug Berger
Stephen Howe
Susan Leadem
Jimmy Rawls
Scott Shubert
Hallie Seibels
Jennie Smith
Michael Soltys
Cliff Woods

BY INVITATION:

Lara Loy
Judith Peterson
Darlene Rawls

Clifford Woods opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. The Board agreed to postpone the approval of the April 7, 2014 meeting minutes to allow members more time for review. Mindful of Ms. Judith Peterson's time, Mr. Woods asked her to begin the meeting with her agenda items and updates.

- Chinese Language Program

Ms. Peterson stated that, as previously noted, the College of Charleston agreed to partner with AMHS and provide an instructor and complete course materials for the proposed Chinese Language Program. Ms. Peterson is awaiting confirmation from the College about the specific days and times for the Chinese I class to "fit" within the AMHS fall schedule. She is also awaiting confirmation about whether the class will be a single semester or year-long course. Ms. Peterson expressed her confidence that the College and AMHS are committed to working together to ensure the Chinese language program will be available for AMHS students in the fall of 2014.

- New Teaching Positions

Ms. Peterson also reported that AMHS has will be hiring at least three new teachers for the coming school year – additional teaching faculty for each of the math and physics departments, as well as an additional Spanish language teacher for the foreign language department.

- Summer Scholar Program

Ms. Peterson then presented an updated proposal for the Summer Scholars Program, an academic and orientation program for all incoming freshman of AMHS. Ms. Peterson reported that the Summer Scholar Program had been refined into a 4-day program, providing both an academic- and social orientation for all freshman, touching upon all core subjects, the School's academic expectations, and also incorporating team-building exercises. (The plan had been modified in length, scope and overall cost since the Summer Scholars Program was first introduced to the Foundation board of directors by Ms. Tonya McIntyre on March 17, 2014.) The goals were consistent, however: to help ensure success for all of the new high school students by reinforcing baseline understandings in mathematics, writing, and also an introduction to science lab notebooks; in addition, it would assist students' understanding of the importance of their summer work, and help them appropriately assess priorities and set expectations. The social aspects of the Program would include team-building activities, such as a "challenge ropes course" and other group activities to help unite the class. Tentative dates for the 2014 Summer Scholars Program are July 21-25th, subject to funding needs.

Ms. Peterson explained the Program would cost approximately \$10,000 with the largest expense being the salary costs of teachers and other faculty members for the four days. Ms. Peterson asked the Board to keep in mind the importance of longevity and sustainability of the program beyond this year in the Board's decision to obligate AMF funds.

Within their discussion, board members expressed appreciation for the goals and the revised plan for the Summer Scholar Program, noting that, in the future, all AMHS students would benefit and could thereby enhance their potentials for academic success at the school. As such, several board members highlighted that the Summer Scholar Program will enhance AMHS' ability to fulfill its mission, an effort entirely consistent with the Foundation's Vision Statement.

Steve Howe moved that the Foundation should provide funding for the Summer Scholar Program in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 annually for a period of three years. Mr. Woods requested that the motion be amended to include a formal request to the AMHS Partners In Education such that PIE and AMF could jointly provide this Program for the School. Board members likewise expressed a desire "to reach out to PIE" with the hope that the Summer Scholars Program could be a joint effort of the support groups. Scott Shubert formally seconded the motion, as amended. The Board then voted unanimously to fund the Summer Scholars Program in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 annually, subject to a potential partnership with PIE, and with a funding commitment for a period not less than three years.

Ms. Peterson then thanked the board of directors, and excused herself from the meeting. All expressed appreciation for Ms. Peterson's time and thoughtful presentation.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Shubert reported that the Foundation's current bank account balance totals \$71,704.12 as their had been little financial activity since the last report.

Committee Updates

On the subject of development, Mr. Shubert reported on the "brainstorming session" held just prior to the evening's board meeting, and noted that the effort to identify potential corporate sponsors and donors is and shall remain ongoing. At the pre-meeting, several Board members committed to identifying corporate and foundation/endowment donors to approach for further funding for AMHS. As a result, members participating agreed to contact various corporations to develop appropriate contact information for the Foundation to reach out to for funding.

Also on the subject of development, Mr. Woods and Hallie Siebels reported on the upcoming, follow-up meetings with a corporate sponsor who has already agreed in principal to provide sponsor new programs, which ideally will lead to funding for further electives.

On the subject of grants, Susan Leadam reported that she is working on a possible funding for an elective course in finance, which opportunity arose following her Grant Committee's meeting with Alicia Kokkinis of the Charleston County School District (along with Ms. Peterson, Mr. Woods, and AMHS bookkeeper, Nikki Grimal). Ms. Leadem suggested that the faculty and course materials for the possible finance course (and other electives) could be "outsourced" in the same manner used for the new Chinese language program, which may help foster a broader relationship with the College of Charleston (for the availability of yet more elective courses).

On the subject of school needs, Michael Solty's provided notes from his committee's meeting with representatives of the AMHS mathematics department regarding how to best enrich and expand the scope of the mathematics department. Highlights included identifying a critical need for an additional math teacher to achieve adequate levels of instruction, a proposal for an "Honors" and "Accelerated" track for classes such as Algebra II and Geometry, and the possibility of offering more math electives. The meeting also determined a need to investigate statistical software to respond to the requirements of the "statistical analysis" and "experimental design" components in the Senior Thesis Project. Lastly, Mr. Solty's reported he is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Science Department

Also on the subject of School Needs, Mr. Woods reported that he and Ms. Leadem were scheduled to meet the following week with College of Charleston Professor, Sandra Sheilds, and North Carolina State University, Poole College of Management Professor, Robert Handfield.

Old Business

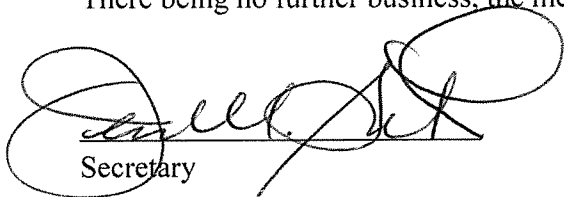
Jimmy Rawls reported he is working on the Alumni database, and developing a AMF Facebook page to connect with alumni.

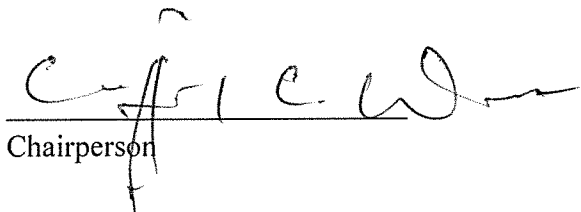
Conclusion

Mr. Woods noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 9, 2014.

Board members then unanimously expressed their appreciation for the positive and helpful contributions of both Lara LeRoy and Darlene Rawls as part of the evening's discussions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.


Secretary


Chairperson