

Board Meeting



Date: November 18th, 2022	Meeting Time: 9:00 AM	Location: Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Meeting called by	Sonia Kay	
Board Members Present	Valerie Silverman, Orlando Ortiz, Michael Kridel, Nancy DiPierro, Steve Padula, Jay Huebner	
Board Members Absent	Elinor Siklossy	
Notetaker	Sonia Kay, Nadine Fagan; Recorded by Zoom	
Other Attendees	Debra Johnson, Jason Portman, Nadine Fagan	
Public/Board Comments		
	Soni and Debi attended the American Philanthropy Day event. They had a wonderful speaker that talked about connecting with potential donors, finding out where their interests connect to their giving, and tailoring a giving program to meet those interests.	
Board Minutes		
Presenter: Michael Kridel	Discussion: Approval of Board Minutes October 27th, 2022	
Date of Minutes Reviewing:	October 27th, 2022	
Amendments made:	None	
Motion Made by:	Valerie Silverman	
Motion Second by:	Michael Kridel	
Discussion/Question:	None, Motion passed.	
Treasurer's Report		
Presenter: Jason Portman	Screen share of Budget Vs Actual, GASB, and other documents sent by email	
	-ESSER Funds (from American Rescue Plan) are available; will need to apply by the 14 th . They will require board chair signature. -Due to the new lease agreement, Soni has asked that going forward we provide a Monthly Income/ Expenses coming in and going out.	

	<p>-Budget for now vs last year; we have a difference from last year of \$118,000 to this year of \$273,000. Still around \$230,000 in the positive. The difference applies to legal fees/Landlord issues of around \$110,000 and payouts out of referendum monies started later.</p> <p>-We are receiving monies from the American Rescue Plan for keeping employees through COVID; credit back on taxes paid during that time.</p> <p>-We also have not yet been paid for 8 students from FTE which we should be paid sometime in Dec/Jan.</p>
TSIA	Tentative approval of switching out the paraprofessionals for the therapists for funding allocation.
	Tabled pending decision on appeal.
Principal's Report	
Presenter: Debi Johnson	Principal Report on Screen
	<p>-Dashboard covers details of the number of students, teachers, Covid status & funds raised to date.</p> <p>86 Students currently; losing 2 students to moves. Both spots have been filled and possibly adding a 3rd in January.</p> <p>Staffing:</p> <p>-Job Openings; have 1 paraprofessional spot open</p> <p>Building America w/ Jay Hubner</p> <p>The event served both Connections students and others. Connections now has a Little Library they can have at the school for others to access. Classes continued the construction projects after seeing pictures online of the event.</p>
Jason/Debi/Soni	Fundraising/Marketing Update
	<p>Kristen arranged for Debi and Soni to visit Lynn University for access to a search engine of grants initially started by the Junior League. We have blanket permission to visit whenever we like. Kristen will also be holding a cocktail party with several of her influential friends invited to learn about Connections, happening sometime in January.</p> <p>Bus Update: The school decided to have a GoFundMe started. The media dept for GoFundMe wrote up a press release and sent it to the local news stations. As a result, we received several calls for monies donated to be used as needed for the school. A childcare center wants to donate a small bus to us. We also raised around \$8,000 on the official page.</p> <p>In the future board members would like media links to be shared with them. The website is currently having a page made to highlight Connections in the News with media links.</p>

	<p>Grants/Donations: Pending: Chik-Fil-A (December) Impact of the Palm Beaches- Submitted next step paperwork IBIS, Admirals Cove- Submitting LOI's Applying for Playground Grant</p> <p>Events: -December 9th Shop and Share Lilly Pulitzer (Gardens Mall) 1:30-5:30 pm Percentage of sales to go to Connections -December 11th All in For Autism Poker Tournament at PBKC; time TBA -April 8th 2023 Rooney's Walk/Run -Connections First Annual Fire Truck Pull – Date TBA</p>
Jason	Facilities
	Nothing to report at this time.
New Business	
	<p>-Meeting with Extraordinary Charities to confirm partnership. They are having their Grand Opening of the kitchen previously Meals on Wheels on November 30th.</p> <p>-Ken facilitating mentorship/partnership with Sandy James.</p>
Board Member Agreement	
	Tabled until next meeting.
Bylaws Amendment	
	Having the option for online meetings added to bylaws
	Tabled until next meeting.
Advancement Committee	
Valerie Silverman	
	<p>Sent out annual reports to those that did not receive them. Donor letters for end of the year have also gone out. Rewrites were made resulting in a longer letter than usual. A matching gift was mentioned. Carol Kauffman stepped away temporarily, however new member Jason Rogers is motivated to really help with next steps. At a future meeting please share what was learned at the Philanthropy Day, it could help us in our efforts of opening conversations with donors. There's also a video series we can watch that looks promising, that</p>

	person could potentially be hired to give a class. We would also like to reconnect with the people from our Friend-raiser last year.	
Motion for Adjournment	08:08 Pm	
Motion Made By:	Valerie Silverman	
Motion Seconded By:	Michael Kridel/Nancy DiPierro	
Discussion/Question:	None. Motion passed.	
Calendar		
Next Board Meeting:	Zoom Meeting January at 9:00 am	
Minutes Approved		
Board Member:	<i>Sonia F. Kay, Ph.D.</i>	Date: 1/27/2023