

## **Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor**

### **Minutes of the Board of Trustees Wednesday, November 1, 2023 Meeting**

**Trustees in Attendance:** Elizabeth Head, Knut Hill, Cindy Schoen, Angela Gladstone, Adrian Madland, Walker Barnes, Jenny Rajda. Lubhit Girdhar,

**Others Present:** Elizabeth Kozisek, Brian Vroom, Jane Ford

**Absent:** Tim Standke, Sylvia Gardner

**Knut called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:36 PM.**

#### **Agenda Review and Consent Agenda Approval**

A motion to approve the consent agenda reports including the meeting minutes from the May 3rd Board Meeting was made by Elizabeth with support from Jenny. There were no dissensions; the motion was carried out. 6:36pm

#### **Minute for Mission with Calisa Tucker, Grade 5 main teacher**

How we are striving to “meet our mission”: Calisa Tucker took an unpaid sabbatical working with the Huron Water Council, which drove a love and interest for the Huron River and it’s surrounding environment.

School is starting an environment curriculum, starting with EC; here are some examples of what activities students will partake in:

First graders will take a daily walk, meet in the forest, learn the fauna, listen to the sound of the water from the Huron River, and greet the river every morning. Water in the school comes from the river. When we have gratitude, and a sense of love and duty, you are enmeshed in the world. Through this program, we will build this love and respect for our river and environment.

*Fourth grade- studies fauna and the world around the watershed:*

Calisa displayed a project created by the fourth graders in which every morning for an hour, the class spent outdoors, up close with the trees, “getting to know the pond”, observing blackbirds nesting and the world surrounding the River.

Snails were observed in which the class contacted Michigan state about snails they found to find out if they were an invasive species.

Expected education should be nurturing education. Children took their stories to talk with students at other schools, who care about the earth and Mother Nature, and presented their displays to other students. This project alone shows how these qualities of gratitude, love and duty manifests in teaching science, creating a long term commitment and relationship to the surrounding environment.

### **Operations Update**

Brian updated the Board on the investing in CDs; rates are still good but not all has been invested due to availability. He also spoke of the facilities being financially mapped and should be finished by Thanksgiving. Audit is going slowly, but well.

### **Administrator Update**

Sian is back early from her sabbatical, however will continue to operate as if she is on sabbatical, continuing weekly calls and the sabbatical plan that was set.

### **Development/Annual Fund**

Jane began her segment speaking about the Board appeal as well as meeting with donors. Jane informed the Board that there are 54 donors to maintain contact with, including current or alumni parents and grandparents, with a focus on personal touches and their importance. Jane also spoke on expanding the faculty development budget through donors and acknowledged Lisa Zuber’s hard work with the Annual Fund.

## **Budgeting Process Outlook**

The Finance Committee will meet a week from today and will work on the initial outlook beyond the next fiscal year (24-25). The main early goal will be to have enough information so tuition setting can be addressed in January, contracts sent out in February/March, setting the Finance Committee on a consistent timeline with prior years' timelines.

## **New Business**

*EC outdoor program outlook:*

In the beginning process for logistics and planning for next year with the hope for an update in the next board meeting.

Talking points about outdoor structure: does it need heat, plumbing, etc

Decision made about what action to make by the end of december

Have to have a plan by enrollment season, with the need to get licensicng approved before advertising the program. A lot of work ahead for Angela, Maegan and Brian but resulting in a new kindergarten program.

*Jenny- Board self evaluation:*

Summary of results to look at as a board.

Actions on how to improve the board via results.

Planning for a future meeting in January.

How can we better serve ourselves and the larger community?

Jenny offered anyone with interest to join.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Knut. There were no dissensions and the motion was carried at 7:41pm and the Board moved to a private session.

Minutes taken by Elizabeth Kozisek

