

Grant School Foundation
Meeting Minutes
Sept. 21, 2009

Attendees

Board Members

Sabine Steck	Ginger Tyson	Eric Page Chairman, President
Gina Caparrel	Bruce Bourdon,	Vice President
Dr. Monique Robertson	Rajan Agarwal,	Treasurer

Parents and Community Members Present

Paul Bowers	Mary Lee
Mary Thale	
Laurie Renas	
Susan Finster	

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:40 pm in the teacher/staff Lounge at Grant Elementary School on Sept. 21, 2009.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes of the foundation's Aug. 30, 2009, meeting, which were routed for approval and review prior to the meeting at hand. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Agenda Items

Foundation Tax Status

Mr. Page began the meeting by updating those present with the tax filing status. Mr. Page had been to the bank with Mr. Agarwal. Mr. Page believes that the foundation status is currently suspended as a result of not having filed taxes since the year 2004. The current suspension does not allow the foundation to engage in certain activities until the status is reinstated by the California secretary of state. Mr. Agarwal had discussed the limitations of the foundation in regards to receiving/spending funds, and communicated that the foundation could still spend and receive money while in suspension. Mr. Agarwal also communicated that in order to request a reprieve of suspension, the foundation would need to 1) pay a \$20 fee to the secretary of state and 2) File the delinquent taxes.

A full discussion followed, Former Foundation Chair Paul M. Bowers provided his perspective on the matter.

Discussion ensued regarding the next steps to be taken given the situation. A motion was made by Mr. Page to pay the \$20 fee to request the foundation status be reinstated. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyson and approved unanimously by the board.

In order to better support the documentation that Mr. Agarwal has to file, Ms. Barker offered to provide certain information related to prior board members.

It appeared that the sense of the board was that the foundation would continue to use foundation funds for agreed-upon budget expenditures while the tax/suspension status is being handled. It was also agreed to by the board to have the taxes filed prior to the October 2009 meeting. (No votes were taken on either matter.)

Spanish Budget

Ms. Renas, PTA president, communicated the need to have the foundation provide \$1,000 per class to support the kindergarten Spanish program in lieu of the \$500 discussed previously at the Aug. 30, 2009, meeting. Mr. Agarwal made a motion to increase the foundation budget to provide \$1,000 per kindergarten class for Spanish. Ms. Barker seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to approve. Ms. Renas expressed her appreciation of this effort to the foundation.

D&O Insurance

General discussion was had regarding the status of obtaining directors and officers liability (D&O) insurance. All board members present clearly stated their desire to make a determination at the next board meeting. Mr. Bourdon was tasked with investigating D&O insurance and providing a cost at the next meeting in order for board members to vote regarding the insurance being purchased. Ms. Thale offered assistance to Mr. Bourdon in researching the matter.

Website Budget

Mr. Page provided information regarding costs related to the current school Web site. The current cost is \$4,200 per year. Mr. Page was hopeful to get a free Web site in place via the school district within six months. Currently, the foundation has set aside \$1,050.00 in the budget toward the Web site. This will be evaluated in the next six months, and if the free Web site is not available at said time, then the board will need to review and vote to approve an additional \$1,050.00 to maintain the current site.

Teacher Funding

Per-teacher funding of \$300 in discretionary funds each was discussed. The subject was tabled for future consideration.

Tax Year

The tax year for the foundation currently coincides with the calendar year. A motion was made by Mr. Agarwal to change the status from the calendar year to

June 30/July 1, which coincides with the school budgets and the school year. Mr. Page seconded the motion, and all board members approved unanimously.

Over-Formula Teacher

Ms. Finster provided information to the board regarding the class sizes for the fourth and fifth grades, and the need for additional teachers to support the classes at Grant. After much discussion regarding the ways to support this effort, it was determined that the process is not in place for the foundation to hire an over-formula teacher and that the subject may be best discussed with SSC/Governance. SSC/Governance could then address the issue as a policy matter with the school board.

PTA/PTO Status

Ms. Renas provided an update regarding the investigation of changing the PTA to a PTO. Mr. Page will be evaluating how the foundation could become a part of a PTO in order to have one unified body for the school and ease meeting requirements and duplicating efforts for all parents, teachers, staff and community members. Mr. Page will provide an update at the October 2009 meeting.

Gala

Ms. Barker provided an update on gala planning. The date has been set for April 24 unless a venue cannot be procured at that date. Ms. Barker requested to begin Web site evaluation and to research alternate financial tools for the evenings event and proceeds. A discussion was had regarding the need to make a decision regarding the fund-an-item for the 2010 gala as soon as possible. Ms. Barker and gala co-chair Mr. Jonathon Bailey will request permission from Dr. Robertson to attend the next teacher/staff meeting and resource those present regarding the items to be voted on as the potential fund-an-item. Much discussion was had regarding the potential fund-an-item, and a decision was made to narrow the choices to three potential projects at most and then engage parents and teachers/staff on the decision of what would most benefit the school. Dr. Robertson expressed her desire to have a very balanced project that unifies our school and provides a strong benefit to our teachers and students.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.