

Fernwood Fund

Board Meeting Minutes (11/14/2017)



Board Meeting of the Fernwood Montessori School Fund

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:30pm
Location: Fernwood Montessori School, Community Room, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Attendance: John Sanchez, Sean Kane, Mel Limas, Isaac Roang, Jennifer Brumm-Maciejewski, Lorinda Flores, Benjamin Stocks
Absent: Amy Joyce, Tara Baszler, Paula Holman
Guests: Robbie Oldenburg, Kari Wellhausen, Jean Vogel, Kathryn Botsford, Thomas Storm
Facilitator: Sean Kane, Board Chair
Note Taker: Isaac Roang, Board Secretary

Meeting Notes

- Meeting called to order by Sean Kane at approximately 6:30 pm
- Standing Agenda
 - Meeting Minutes – Minutes from last meeting (10/24/2017) approved.
 - Treasurer Report – Amy emailed a report to the Board prior to the meeting.
 - Principal's Report – **Action Item:** Board to respond to Long Range Facilities Master Plan questions by 12/1.
 - Committee Reports – N/A.
- Grants
 - New
 - Model UN
 - Presentation by K. Wellhausen & Jean Vogel. Grant request to assist with with spring 2018 Montessori Model UN in Chicago. Discussion of differences between Montessori UN and other model UN programs. Hope is to eventually create an MPS Model UN program and 2018 trip would be an investment toward same. About 130 students are currently interested but expected to narrow as commitment is increased. Plan is to have about 8-12 students per class involved in the club and about 28 students for the trip to Chicago. Trip cost is approx. \$560/person for a total budget of approx. \$16,000. Fundraising efforts are underway. Grant request of approx. \$5,400 to assist with approximately 11 attendees (4 teachers and 7 students).
 - Board discussed the proposal in a closed session. **Approval** of commitment of up to \$2,000 to support the cost of the 4 teachers to attend.
 - **Follow-up for sponsors:** Provide information on actual student interest after organizational meeting.
 - Fernwood Forensics.
 - Presentation by Kathryn Botsford. Importance of learning public speaking. Need for a program at Fernwood. Assuming approximately 30 students (6th, 7th & 8th grades) but could be more or less. Costs include tournament registration costs (\$5 per student per tournament) for the 5 tournaments, judging fees, transportation costs. Will look for other funding sources (e.g. PTO for busses). Discussion of family contributions.
 - Board discussed the proposal in a closed session. **Approval** of commitment of up to \$1,000 for the inaugural year only to help get off the ground; provided, however that other sources are also pursued (including fee payments by families, with exceptions for those who would have financial hardship).`
 - **Follow-up for sponsors:** Provide information on actual student interest after organizational meeting.
 - Existing with Updates

- Auditorium Upgrades – On track for December completion.
- Existing without Updates
 - Auditorium Mural Project – No updates other than in progress.
 - Milwaukee Public Museum – No report yet.
 - Environmental Education Trips – Ongoing. More updates later.
- Landscaping and Master Grounds Plan
 - Discussion of consultant and need to change gears due to consultant illness.
 - Presentation by Lorinda of the planning completed, phases, etc. Total cost to do all work is approx. \$100,000 (construction costs), but need to split up for fundraising..
 - Discussion of which components to focus on for first phase of work. Consensus that focus should be on amphitheater (approx. \$15k) and planting next to west-facing classrooms (approx. \$5k). Construction diagrams will be under \$5k. **Approval** of up to \$25,000 for all components of the Phase I work (including design costs).
 - Timeline (reverse chronology): Beers & Cheers 2018 — have pictures. April 20 — target for the amphitheater being done. April 2 — contract with landscape builder signed. February 9 — bid documents issued. January 26—construction design complete.
- Other Matters Discussed
 - Task List – tabled.
 - Annual Appeal – complete.
 - Leadership Plaque Updates – tabled.
- Close of business at approximately 8:45 pm

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- December 12, 2017 at 6:30 pm (Anodyne on KK)
- January 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm
- February 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm
- March 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm
- April 17, 2018 at 6:30 pm
- May 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm
- June 3, 2018 - Beers and Cheers (Sugar Maple)
- [June and/or July?]