

Board Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2025 Minutes
5:00p.m. at The 44 Venue



Richland #44 Foundation Minutes

Present: Megan Kummer, Katie Hegseth, Scott Johnson, Jenny Schmitt, Nicole Holdman, Dr. Britney Gandhi, Chad Ulven

Absent:

Others Present: Janna Koble, Tamera Frankl, Juli Mauch, Becky Bakke

Agenda Items	Discussion/Motion
FOUNDATION BOARD NEW BUSINESS:	
<i>Megan Kummer called for any additions to the agenda. Promotional video partnership was added to the agenda. Brittney Gandhi motioned to approve the agenda as amended, Scott Johnson second. Agenda set.</i>	
Approval of the August 6, 2025 Minutes	KATIE HEGSETH MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 6, 2025 MINUTES. BRITNEY GANDHI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.
Approval of the September 2, 2025 Minutes	NICOLE HOLDMAN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 MEETING MINUTES. KATIE HEGSETH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.
FAFSA/Scholarship night	FAFSA/Scholarship Information night is scheduled for November 5. Jenny Schmitt and Chad Ulven will present. The 2026 Hendrickson Scholarship application will open in January 2026 and the deadline is the last Monday in March.
Scholarship Report	The scholarship report as of 9.30.2025 was reviewed. There are 119 scholarships available, 99 have been requested. It was noted that the 2019 and 2020 recipient's scholarship funds will be expiring, per the 6-year rule.
Foundation Financials	<p>The group reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement YTD, Statement of Financial Position Comparison, and the Balance Sheet.</p> <p>Items of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Construction is progress is shown as YTD 2025 only. Full project totals span prior years and would appear when pulling a multi-year range.• Ownership/transfer of The 44 Venue building will occur upon contractor's pending project completion and punch-list items (grounds, etc.). <p>SCOTT JOHNSON MOTIONED TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SUBJECT TO AUDIT. CHAD ULVEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.</p>

Agenda Items	Discussion/Motion
THE 44 VENUE BUSINESS:	
The 44 Venue Use Requests and Policy Framework	<p>The group discussed the need provide a policy and framework for the facility use requests that are being received to provide a clear path to what qualifies for a reduced/non-profit rate, school sanctioned events, and all others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501(c)(3) nonprofits receive the nonprofit rate. • Non-nonprofits pay full rate. • Community groups aligned with mission/vision may apply to the Foundation for sponsorship to offset venue costs (keeps venue books clean; venue books full-rate revenue; Foundation records sponsorship/advertising. • High-priority dates (e.g., wedding season, Saturdays) retain full rate; sponsorship levels may consider date demand. <p>Process: Jana confirms requestor status (501c3 or school/community affiliation). If not eligible for discount, direct to Foundation Funds Request form for sponsorship.</p> <p>Branding: Where sponsorship is granted, list Foundation and The 44 Venue as sponsors on materials.</p>
All-School Reunion Request	<p>Event date requested: Saturday, September 19, 2026 (peak wedding season; high-priority date).</p> <p>Expected attendance: 400–450 (based on 2006 event).</p> <p>Pricing context: Full Saturday night rate = \$8,000. The committee anticipated covering \$1,500 directly via registrations; additional support requested from Foundation.</p> <p>CHAD ULVEN MOTIONED TO FUND UP TO \$6,500 FROM THE FOUNDATION TO SPONSOR VENUE COSTS FOR THE ALL-SCHOOL REUNION AT THE 44 VENUE (WITH THE GROUP CONTRIBUTING \$1,500; VENUE TO BOOK FULL \$8,000 REVENUE). KATIE HEGSETH SECONDED.</p> <p>Discussion: Rationale includes community value, precedent clarity, and peak-date policy.</p> <p>Vote: Motion passed.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Sponsorship model preserves full-rate revenue on The 44 Venue books; Foundation records a \$6,500 sponsorship.</p> <p>Standard staffing/services apply (not a discounted-rate event).</p> <p>Future events should follow the policy framework above.</p>
Prom Request	<p>The Junior class submitted a facility use request for May 9, 2026. Post prom to be held off site.</p> <p>CHAD ULVEN MOTIONED THE APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR THE USE OF THE 44 VENUE FOR THE GRAND MARCH AND THE DANCE. JENNY SCHMITT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.</p>

Agenda Items	Discussion/Motion
The 44 Venue General Manager Update~ Janna Koble	<p>The board reviewed current and upcoming wedding bookings, noting that a significant number of existing reservations are for weddings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposal for 2027 wedding pricing was presented, outlining weekend rate adjustments and potential increases over 2026 rates. The group discussed maintaining competitive pricing while reflecting the venue's value and rising operational costs. • Consideration was also given to offering off-season savings during the winter months to encourage bookings in lower-demand periods. • An option for a full weekend experience, spanning Friday through Sunday, was also reviewed to provide couples with more setup and event flexibility. • No formal action was taken. The Board expressed confidence in Janna's judgment and authorized her to exercise discretion in setting pricing consistent with existing policies and prevailing market conditions.
Promotional Video	<p>Janna presented pricing for a documentary-style promotional video to be a collaborative effort between The 44 Venue and The Foundation. The video would feature roughly half on The 44 Venue and half on the Foundation's creation and the relationship between the two. It will also serve as a key asset for Phase 2 fundraising. Cost: \$5,450 (total project).</p> <p>NICOLE HOLDMAN MOTIONED THAT THE 44 VENUE AND THE FOUNDATION SPLIT THE COST OF THE VIDEO (TOTAL \$5,450). SECONDED BY JENNY SCHMITT. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
Foundation Fundraising Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Recruitment: Tamara Frankl requested two prospective committee names from each board member; a sign-up sheet circulated, and six names were submitted. • Major Gift Announcement: A \$500,000 donation was announced, including a naming opportunity for the North Colt Room. • Piano Initiative: The fundraising committee has received community/donor interest in adding a new piano at The 44 Venue. The committee is confident it can raise the necessary funds. The vendor has offered a loaner piano during the campaign and no interest financing is available. The Board discussed the programming and event opportunities a piano would enable. <p>BRITNEY GANDHI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE UP TO \$45,000 AS A DOWN PAYMENT TOWARD THE PIANO UNTIL DONATIONS ARE SECURED. KATIE HEGSETH SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
The 44 Venue New Board Creation	<p>The Board discussed establishing a separate governing board for The 44 Venue. The new board's role would be to oversee the 44 Venue GM and provide support and guidance on facility management. The new board would report to the Foundation Board.</p>

Agenda Items	Discussion/Motion
	Proposed Structure: A five-member board, including two Foundation Board members and three community members. A November 5, 2026 goal was set to have nominations for this board.
Old Business	
Ratification of Prior Email Vote Regarding Close Up Facility Use Request	<p>Board Chair Megan Kummer circulated a facility use request via email for the Close-Up Spaghetti Feed & Silent Auction on November 17, 2025, at The 44 Venue.</p> <p>Motion: Approve the request as presented. Motion by: Chad Ulven Second by: Britney Gandhi Vote: Yes – Kummer, Ulven, Gandhi, Hegseth, Holdman, Johnson, Schmitt No – None Motion carried.</p> <p>See attached for full details.</p>

The meeting was adjourned. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is November 5, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Bakke & Juli Mauch

Summary of Close-Up Venue Request

- **Applicant:** Trace Bakke (tracebakke2424@gmail.com, (218) 779-2174)
- **Organization:** Close-Up, affiliated with Richland #44 School District
- **Event:** *Spaghetti Feed & Silent Auction*
 - **Date/Time:** November 17, 2025, from 4–7 PM
 - **Location Requested:** Main event space and kitchen at The 44 Venue
 - **Attendance:** Estimated 200 people
 - **Purpose:** Seniors will host a free-will donation spaghetti feed with silent auction items gathered by students (grades 10–12). Proceeds support their Close-Up trip to Washington, D.C., and New York.
- **Approval:** Superintendent Britney Gandhi and Principal Lukas Davison
- **Rate Requested:** Complimentary (school-approved event)
- **Acknowledgement:** Applicant understands responsibility for setup, teardown, cleanup, and that reduced-rate use requires board approval, with no guarantee of availability.

Board Chair **Megan Kummer** circulated the request via email for review and approval.

Action:

- Motion by **Chad Ulven** to approve the Close-Up 44 Venue Facility Use Request for November 16, 2025.
- Seconded by **Britney Gandhi**.
- Motion carried.

Votes Recorded:

- **Yes:** Megan Kummer, Chad Ulven, Britney Gandhi, Katie Hegseth, Nicole Holdman, Scott Johnson, Jenny Schmitt
- **No:** None

Ratification of Email Motion:

Board Chair **Megan Kummer** reported that an email motion was circulated and approved by the Board prior to the meeting.

- **Motion (via email):** Approve the Close-Up 44 Venue Facility Use Request for November 16, 2025.
- **Votes Recorded (via email):** Yes – Megan Kummer, Chad Ulven, Britney Gandhi, Katie Hegseth, Nicole Holdman, Scott Johnson, Jenny Schmitt. No – None.
- The Board ratified this action by consensus at the meeting.