

Board Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2025 Minutes
5:00 p.m.
Richland #44 High School



Richland #44 Foundation Minutes

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

Others Present: Janna Koble, Tamera Frankl

Agenda Items	Discussion/Motion
FOUNDATION BOARD NEW BUSINESS:	
Megan Kummer called for any additions to the agenda. Dr. Gandhi added a Funds Request. Megan Kummer added the Executive Director Position to the agenda. CHAD ULVEN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SCOTT JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of the January 8, 2025 Minutes	KATIE HEGSETH MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 8, 2025, MINUTES. SCOTT JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Conflict of Interest	Megan Kummer reminded everyone to sign the conflict-of-interest policy like we do every year. Board members signed and turned in (Nicole will need to sign since she was on Teams).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds Request	Dr. Gandhi presented a funding request she received earlier in the day from the Colfax Drama Club. The request of \$500 is for the set and costumes of their upcoming play "Little Women." KATIE HEGSETH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$500 REQUEST. JENNY SCHMITT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Executive Director Position	Nicole explained that we need to be thinking about when it will be time to hire a full-time executive director. Soon is best but it is dependent on cash flow. The foundation board discussed that they should start creating a job description. This should be an agenda item at next month's meeting and foundation board members and Foundation directors should start brainstorming the job description.

Agenda Items	Discussion/Motion
THE 44 VENUE BUSINESS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential new LLC for The 44 Venue 	<p>Dr. Gandhi explained that she and Janna have met with an attorney about the contract for weddings, etc. The attorney recommends we create a separate LLC for The 44 Venue to protect the Foundation's assets. It is complicated with tax laws but probably the best move legally. Dr. Gandhi has checked with Bank Forward (who has the line of credit) and they have given the ok to transfer the line of credit to the venue's LLC, if the board makes that move.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next month the board will vote on whether to create a separate LLC for the venue.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheetrocking going in Painting in different areas Brick install Tiling in the bar <p>Lots more!</p> <p>Dr. Gandhi brought up the concern that the water and sanitary may not be completed in time. She will follow up with Interstate Engineering to learn more.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Window treatment pricing east side of Event Space 	<p>After a recent site visit, some Foundation board members and school board members asked about installing window treatment on the east side of event space due to sun in the mornings. Pricing was provided by the construction manager: it would be a \$36,000 adjustment to contingency.</p> <p>Discussion was held around current contingency (\$161,000 remaining).</p> <p>SCOTT JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER OF \$36,000 PENDING DR. GANDHI HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH MCGOUGH ABOUT POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL MAJOR COSTS. CHAD ULVEN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPAC General Manager Update~ Janna Koble 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website launched~ Lots of inquiries since then and since the bridal show. 50 inquiries, 15 of which seem serious. There are five tours scheduled in the next week with potential brides. One holiday party has been booked. Contract for bookings is being finalized by an attorney. Software for bookings is being finalized. Agreement made with hotel in south Fargo (Spring Hill Suites by King Pinz). Liquor license is being worked on by Amy Clark (Smith & Strege Law Firm).

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Operating Budget 	<p>Dr. Gandhi and Janna presented a draft operating budget for 2025 (Q3 and Q4) and for 2026. The debt service tab needs to be finalized to ensure accuracy. A revised version will be brought to next month's meeting.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising Updates 	<p>Tamera presented a fundraising update:</p> <p>\$940,000 in donations or pledges</p> <p>Additionally, there are 3 more 44 for 44s, \$25k from Colfax Farmers Elevator, \$4k from Sanford, \$3k from Red River Communications, and McGough also wants to donate. There is a major potential donor who is coming along.</p> <p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Successful event at Dakota Vines on 1/31 (all paid for by Thrivent dollars). No event has cost the Foundation any funds. Several fundraisers have paid out of pocket. -Plan to have one more event mid to end of February at the Berseth's. -Tamera recommends one or two open house events (probably at the school) for the entire community. All board members should be there and should help present. We need a united front. -Potential date: March 31; Dr. Gandhi will confirm. <p>Gaming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Antelope Creek is considering us and one other organization to start gaming June 1. Becky and Tamera have started the paperwork. -Colfax Bar is also considering us and one other organization: Coltbackers. -Discussion held that learning more about the requirements of gaming would be helpful. Tamera will reach out to someone in Colfax who does that. More discussion to be held next month.
Old Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Giving Hearts Day Plan 	<p>Tamera updated that \$7,600 has been donated! Just one week left to donate; please spread the word.</p> <p>Katie took the supplies for the candy bags home to distribute to all Richland #44 staff.</p>

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

Respectfully Submitted, Dr. Britney Gandhi