



## Richland 44 Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

**Date: February 4, 2026**

**Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**Location: Richland 44 High School**

**Present:** Katie Hegseth, Ryan Hermunslie, Megan Kummer, Kayla Mark, Nicole Holdman, Dr. Britney Gandhi

**Absent:** Chad Ulven

**Others Present:** Janna Koble, Becky Bakke

---

### Consent Agenda

- **Motion:** Dr. Britney Gandhi moved to approve the consent agenda items. Ryan Hermunslie seconded the motion. Motion carried
  - **Included Items:**
    - January 7, 2026 Minutes
    - January 31, 2026 financial statements accepted, subject to audit.
- 

### New Business

#### 44 Venue Board Review and Approval

The Foundation Board received four strong applications to serve on the 44 Venue LLC Board and discussed approving all applicants.

**NICOLE HOLDMAN MOTIONED TO ACCEPT ALL FOUR APPLICANTS TO THE 44 VENUE LLC BOARD. KATIE HEGSETH SECONDED THE MOTION. RYAN HERMUNSLIE ABSTAINED. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

The Board also discussed and appointed Foundation Board representatives to serve on the 44 Venue LLC Board.

**RYAN HERMUNSLIE MOTIONED TO APPOINT DR. BRITNEY GANDHI AND CHAD ULVEN AS FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS ON THE 44 VENUE LLC BOARD. DR. BRITNEY GANDHI ABSTAINED. KAYLA MARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Next steps include establishing staggered board terms not to exceed three years and developing a board expectations summary outlining the duties and responsibilities of the 44 Venue LLC Board.

---

#### LLC Oversight Policy

The Board reviewed draft LLC governance and oversight documentation and clarified that the LLC is owned by the Foundation but operates as a separate legal entity. The Board discussed the importance of maintaining appropriate separation for accounting purposes, including asset transfer, depreciation, and reporting requirements. It was recommended that legal counsel review the governance documents to ensure accuracy and compliance.

Action items include obtaining a legal review of the LLC governance documents, confirming annual filing and reporting requirements for the LLC, and coordinating with accounting and bookkeeping support regarding asset placement and depreciation handling.

---

## The 44 Venue Business

### General Manager Update~ Janna Koble

#### Event Bookings & Sales

- 73 total events booked to date for 2026.
- Clarification provided that event totals may include multiple components of a single wedding (e.g., rehearsal, ceremony, reception).
- One additional wedding booked since the last meeting.
- Three recent tours completed, with another scheduled the same day.

#### Wedding Show & Marketing

- Approximately 70 registrations for the upcoming wedding show.
- Feedback from the Fargo wedding show indicates positive ROI, with at least one likely booking attributed to attendance.

#### Upcoming & New Events

- Great Dance Banquet booked for May (first time hosting this type of event).
- Forever at the Forty-Four event finalized with 44 participating vendors.
- Professional photography scheduled the morning of the event for promotional use.
- Posters distributed locally; additional promotion ongoing.

#### Partnerships & Outreach

- Exploration of renewed local TV promotion opportunities.
- New partnership planned with *The Invitation*, a women's networking group, to host an event at the venue.

#### Operations & Staffing

- Work underway to finalize operational manuals.
- Two candidates interviewed for a marketing internship; additional interviews planned.

---

### Fundraising Committee Update~ Megan Kummer

#### Piano Fundraiser

- Piano fundraiser scheduled for March 28 (Saturday).
- Event will use Thrivent funding; additional details forthcoming.

#### Grants

- Rural Catalyst grant application was not selected as a finalist.
- Appreciation expressed to Renee Oscarson for extensive work on the application.
- Grant materials may be repurposed for future opportunities.

#### Committee Status

- Fundraising committee entering its third year.
- Recruitment for additional committee members is ongoing.

#### Alumni & Reunion Planning

- Foundation to coordinate a fundraising opportunity aligned with the September all-school reunion being hosted at the venue.
-

## **General Manager Bonus Adjustment~**

The Board discussed the General Manager bonus structure, noting that the original threshold was based on 100 days of venue utilization. Through clarification and discussion, the Board determined that using total event count is a clearer and more accurate metric than measuring utilization by days. Based on current projections of approximately 73 events, the Board identified 85 events as a more realistic and appropriate target for the first year.

**DR BRITNEY GANDHI MOTIONED TO AMEND CURRENT GENERAL MANAGER’S BONUS LANGUAGE STRUCTURE TO READ, “ATTAINS A MINIMUM OF 85 EVENTS, INCLUSIVE OF ALL EVENT TYPES.” KAYLA MARK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

---

## **Old Business**

### **Scholarship Report**

- **101 students** have activated scholarships to date.
- **\$765,000** total scholarships disbursed.
- **21 potential graduates** are projected for the Class of 2026.

### **Policy Discussion**

The Board recommended revising the scholarship policy language to clarify that the six-year usage period begins upon scholarship award approval rather than at the time of first disbursement. Becky and Juli will work on revising this portion of the policy to support a more manageable and consistent tracking system.

---

Motion to adjourn approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2026