

VMA Board Minutes of Oct 3, 2017

Present: Chris Carle, Alicia Chalmers, Bill Johnston, Steve Lobel and Christine Schlesinger
Guests: Neil Phillips, Shannon Rohrer-Phillips, Cindy Cavallero Day, and Louis Parker

Meeting commenced at 3:03 PM at the WG Mills Building

Discussion about two possible board candidates:

Roberto R Villanueva was proposed by Neil. His interest in the school was noted and was his contact with the Sarasota/Bradenton community. Motion made by Bill to appoint, and seconded by Alicia and was passed unanimously.

TJ Chitewke: was discussed by Neil and Bill. TJ is relatively new to Bradenton and works at CS&L CPA's. His interest in young people and desire to help the community were mentioned as was his "engagement" to a lovely teacher. Motion made by Steve to appoint and seconded by Chris and unanimous.

Neil reviewed the schoolhouse report discussing the 95 students we currently have and giving us a grade-by-grade breakdown. Kindergarten enrollment is low and ways were talked about to improve those numbers for future years. 3rd grade has two sections with 3 repeat students from the year before. The attendance data is marvelous with a 97% rate through the beginning of the school year. Volunteers to deal with Tier 3 students are starting and one volunteer has 4 students currently. Neil also shared some early iReady scores that predict proficiency on the FSA at the end of the year. These will help in teaching the less proficient students. Pass rates for both reading and math were 71% or higher for 3 through 5th grades.

Shannon lead a development report that emphasized the success with our parent programs and the wonderful Community partners that join with VMA to provide. Women's Resource Center and Unidos Now are great partners. Saturday Success starts Oct 7th and is held the first Sat of every month. Board members are encouraged to attend. Parenting classes will last 24 weeks this year. All of these programs help both the parents as well as give the school more visibility in the community.

On the fundraising side Shannon provided four quarterly projections that would allow us to realize our \$1.3 million goal and was encouraged to meet this goal early every month/quarter to help with operating cash flow. Ideally, we would really like to over raise more to start to build a contingency fund for the leaner summer months. We are between 80 and 90 percent done for the first quarter based on the designation of 15,000 dollars in possible restricted donations. For several days after Hurricane Irma over 50,000 dollars was donated to VMA to help with storm related damages. Louis has also filed an insurance claim and is waiting for an adjuster to survey the damage. Shannon continues to try to develop more Solar Society donors and would raise 38% of our giving from this group. Discussion of names was an important part of her

report. A list of foundations supporting VMA and events were mentioned and many kudos were said for the work of past Sup't. Lori White who has been serving as a consultant thanks to the Barancik Foundation. 3 fund raising events are on the calendar with the "Love Lunch" happening on Oct 11th. 132 guests have signed up so far and our goal is 150 patrons. Donor tours and "friends" are helping us in these efforts.

Louis led us into financial with a positive cash flow coming into November but donations will be needed in the month. We looked carefully at the expense side of the budget and some concerns were voiced. Louis also reviewed a draft copy of the audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2017. The audit report is a clean unqualified report. The unrestricted balance as of June 30, 2017 was \$150,230. It was also noted that the auditors did not note any management/internal control findings.

The property that we need to develop in the next three years was discussed with thoughts given to partnering with a possible 501c-3 organization. Louis shared some statistics about the demographics of Manatee county that were most enlightening, including the size and density of this community that we serve. A motion to authorize the founding team to investigate possible partnering opportunities was made by Christine, seconded by Chris and approved unanimously.

Cindy and Neil talked of other possible board candidates and will conference call with Bill to talk about next steps.

There was no new business and the meeting adjourned at 5 PM.

NEXT MEETING IS NOVEMBER 14TH AT 3 PM IN THE WG MILLS BUILDING AT 3301 WHITFIELD.