

Saratoga Education Foundation
12 March 2008
Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 8:50 a.m.

Attendees:

Kelly Berryhill, Sherry Scott, Flora Hoffman, Joanne Lee, Liz Guy, Susan Vukovatz, Marybeth Smails, Kristi Petters, Jen Fraisl, Lane Weiss, Stacy Alexander, Otto Go, Grace Jens, Lane Weiss, Katherine Tseng, Tacey Tucker, Lisa Lu, Beth Kingsley, Naomi Wong, Paige Berardo, Faithe Liu

President's Report:

Several projects are underway including the Last Mile campaign, the logo redesign project, the nominating committee efforts, the website redesign, and a parent survey.

With regards to the survey, it's been 2 years since last one. Efforts are being made to complete the survey in April. Volunteers to help are being sought.

Next month we hear the SUSD proposal and discuss it. Attendance should be good.

SEF Mystery Teacher

Lane introduced Mr Otto Go, the K-5 physical education teacher and last year's Teacher of the Year. He has been at Saratoga Elementary since 2001 (8 years!). He is an employee of Rhythm and Moves with whom the district contracts to provide PE to students.

Otto loves Saratoga and chose to work at Saratoga after his first year working in the district. He is working towards his teaching credential and completed his preliminary masters program in January.

Rhythm and Moves:

- outsources PE and music teachers to about 150 schools
- mostly PE but have 10 music teachers as well.
- They provide equipment for every child.
- They create a curriculum of 9 units and include most sports and even dance.
- Adopt an all inclusive attitude with the children and encourage all children to be active and learn new skills in a safe environment.

SUSD children are fun to work with, Otto reports, and the environment is enjoyable and supportive from both teachers and parents.

He doesn't know if he's going to be guaranteed a job next year if he moved into another public school but feels secure that SEF funding will continue to support his role at the school.

His favorite part of the job is working with the kids and thanks SEF for having him.

Meeting Minutes:

Stacy Alexander motioned to approve Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2008. Kristi Petters seconded. There was no discussion. MOTION CARRIED.

Financial Report:

Stacy Alexander reports that endowment was in a fund that lost money in the last month. Last year it made money but this year it is losing. Currently the Advisory Committee only consults on the Schwab account, not endowment. Stacy suggests we consider moving it towards bonds to protect it from economic fluctuations.

We are currently at \$966K, with the Jogathon forthcoming and two car donations pending. Although more money is due in, Stacy cautioned that SEF will not likely be the fiscal goal.

ACTION: SEF needs to change on the website "car donations" instead of asset donations. This will be addressed in the redesigned website.

Flora Hoffman suggested that an email be sent to parents reminding parents of our key messages and thanking them for their donations.

Superintendent's Report

Lane Weiss gave the board a hushed preview of Foothill's soon to be announced accomplishment: It will be designated a Distinguished School. Around April 15th the Governor of California and the State Department issue a list of distinguished schools and a celebration ensues in Southern California. This is a fabulous accomplishment and a complement to entire district.

With regards to the threatened budget cuts, Lane participated in a protest rally in Sacramento. The protest included 100 superintendents throughout the state and a number of other people. Their purpose was to voice how the cuts would affect their school districts. A number of parents and children were also there. The superintendents are applying pressure to legislators into better understanding what the 10% cuts mean to schools. On May 15 the Governor presents a 2nd version of budget so the next couple of months are important for Lane to be politically active and be heard.

The State is saying SUSD needs to give back 2.4% to State or about \$300K. This 2.4% is what we would get if we were revenue limit district. Temporary staff or

soft funded staff may see layoff notices, or about 150 people. Other effects of the budget cut may be increased class sizes and less instructional aides.

School board does have a 10% reserve and it may come to pass that this is dipped into to keep an even keel. All in all there's about \$2M in reserve.

The bottom line is these cuts will affect SUSD. Check out the budget section of the SUSD website for updated information.

Lane reassured the board this is a cycle, and while this is a downturn phase, better times will come. He's trying to keep an eye on the long term, to even out the trough/peak effect. He would recommend to the board to use the reserve to offset the 2.4% cut.

Thank you for our consistent effort. Lane encouraged the board to come to meetings where the school board discusses budget. Or email him or the school board with question for the 25th March meeting.

Last Mile Campaign/Other Projects

Marybeth Smails outlined the Last Mile campaign:

- starting on Monday 17 March
- 2 week long, mostly signage campaign - just elementary schools now, Redwood later, concluding 28 March
- Switch signs once a week to keep the message fresh
- The purpose is to build awareness and to thank donors to date.
- Mostly signs to be seen at drive through and pick up plus thermometers to show where we are to date.
- On the last day a call to action will be distributed in children's backpacks.
- Banners and t-shirts, too.

Jen notes that along with the Last Mile awareness campaign, the website team has been hard at work and the SEF logo is being addressed after many years of service. To address the logo, SEF will run a contest for all children in K-8 to redesign. Look for notices and details on Monday.

School Reports

Sherry Scott notes that Foothill's big news was already shared by Lane.

Katherine reports on behalf of Redwood that the Jogathon planning is coming along. Liz has set aside two work days, April 3 and 18th, to get all paperwork processed and May 12th is the final tally date when Liz will need help again.

Grace Jens reports that it's Argonaut's Principal Appreciation Week. Yesterday was dress like Mr Chapman day and today is Flower Day. The Adopt a School program is coming which will help buy books for low-income schools and the Coin

Drive had great school participation. 210 children have entered the variety show that's coming up.

Flora Hoffman reports the Leadership Event is May 9th. They will offer the clubhouse that night to help parents with childcare. Lane offered to talk with recreation department to organize that being open to help with kids. Daycare is always an excuse / remove excuse to come.

Kristi Petters reports that Saratoga PTA have forwarded us the checks of the 1-3 families that paid PTA thinking that they were giving money to SEF.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.