

Saratoga Education Foundation  
14 November 2007  
Meeting Minutes

This meeting came to order at 8:54 a.m.

Attendees:

Paige Berardo, Jen Fraisl, Flora Hoffman, Angela Kwan, Joanne Lee, Lisa Lu, Susan Vukovatz, Sherry Scott, Tacey Tucker, Kelly Berryhill, Cheryl Bailey, Kristi Petters, Stacy Alexander, Lane Weiss, Katherine Tseng, Pat Burnham, Linda Rocha

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- SEF website subcommittee has rolled out plans to re-launch in time for Phonathon if not sooner.
- Fundraising sub-committee not up and running yet but is getting organized. Many ideas have been brought forward. Kelly Berryhill offered to help.
- The December Letter is drafted and will be distributed early next month.
- Savor Saratoga program completed. Kelly encouraged everyone to continue to visit shops and mention SEF as some will continue to pay SEF throughout the year and it is a good way to further SEF relationship with the village.
- The SEF Annual Luncheon is December 12<sup>th</sup> at noon at Joyce Lauro's house. It is a pot luck so everyone should bring a dish. Please also bring a suitable white elephant gift to exchange. Bring people to luncheon if they've helped or may want to be involved next year.
- Corporate matching as a focus is being escalated with the goal of increasing matching gifts. Top businesses in the district will be made available to the board and all are encouraged to inform, spread the word and build awareness of this opportunity.

#### MEETING MINUTES

Susan Vukovatz motioned to approve minutes. Sherry Scott seconded. All were in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

SEF has currently raised \$571,043 this year, which is about halfway to the goal. Expenses are in line with expectations.

Overall there is 2.67M in SEF accounts. \$1.1M will be deducted in January for the school district. Part of the rest is endowment.

#### SEF GUEST TEACHERS

Redwood counselors Pat Burnham and Linda Rocha are guests today. SEF pays Pat's salary while Linda's is funded by the state. SUSD is fortunate to provide counseling at middle school level as it is not required by the state and is frequently lost, if offered, when state budgets are cut.

There are approximately 940 students at Redwood. The counselors loop students meaning they stay with a grade level throughout their time at Redwood, advancing each year with that grade until that grade matriculates. After 9 years at Redwood, Pat has a unique perspective. She reports that now, with a team of 2.5 counselors, the care provided in grades 6-8 is remarkable. They are proactive, making relationships with each child.

Linda is an SEF alumna, from 9 years hence, when she ran Jogathon. Counselors visit each class 4 times in a year for social literacy lessons. Communication, self-awareness, stress management, and conflict resolution are worked on. She reiterates that they work to reach every student.

Kelly and Katherine both bore witness to the success of the counseling team at Redwood from personal experiences.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATES

- Kristi Petters still needs Phonathon volunteers. Callers are the top requirement and she has challenged the board to get 2 people each. She needs 15 people for first shift and 21 for second shift. Also needed are food volunteers. Angela offered to deliver Chinese food although she can't be there. Beth Kingsley offered to be food coordinator. Susan Vukovatz offered to bring a salad.
- Terrie following up with participating businesses to thank them for being involved in Savor Saratoga and to chase up payment. A few businesses have volunteered to carry on throughout the year. Terrie surveying businesses to see if they thought the program helped and if they would like to be involved next year. Kelly is investigating ancillary ideas that sprang from the Savor Saratoga program..

## WEBSITE SUBCOMMITTEE

Angela Kwon has been working with a team on updating the website. The team has been working at a fast pace so if anyone has ideas please speak up now. A part of the website redesign will be to take a critical look at the SEF logo. Input is encouraged.

## SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Lane discussed Project Cornerstone, which looks at 40 developmental 'assets' needed for students to be resilient and happy people. A section of survey data was reviewed from Saratoga HS and Los Gatos 4-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Remarkably, SUSD

scored average on developmental assets. This was quite a surprise. The lowest scored asset was feeling like community supports the child.

The Tech Plan has a Dec 7 deadline. The school board is working with a tech consultant to put it together. This plan covers the entire district and is legally required by the state in order to apply for state grants. The goal of the plan is to organize school sites technology offerings with the objective of providing better learning for students.

Other recent undertakings/comments:

- Music teacher's conference. The outcome of the conference is to help articulate a music program.
- Discussion at district meeting surrounding traffic around the school. There has been quite a lot of Saratoga/Oak Street. The board recently approved 2 more crossing guards, 1 at Argonaut and 1 at Saratoga. Discussion about other options to improve situation.
- Superintendents Advisory Meeting
- School nurse wellness policy is being drawn up which is an umbrella policy but drilling into details of nutrition and exercise geared towards promoting wellness. Having this is a legal requirement.
- MRSA staph infection. Wrestling coaches dealing with it for years. Being proactive and looking at PE athletics to make sure they follow procedures to avoid it.
- State budget talk == govnor asked depts. and state agencies to cut back 10%. Don't think this is cause for panic. Nov 27<sup>th</sup> vote. On Jan 8<sup>th</sup> the budget will presented by governor. Good sense in April what programs from state funding will continue to be funded.
- Thank you for Savor Saratoga it was a big hit. Building relationships is the biggest part of this program. Lane offered to write a personal letter to each business that was involved.

## SCHOOL REPORTS

- Terrie: PTA grants are being discussed at Redwood
- Foothill: Sherry --the second harvest food drive happened, family baskets went to Oddfellows Home, parents of Dolphin Doers get kids involved during lunch. Adopt a family in December 12-18 families through social services agency.
- Grace via Jen-- enjoying SEF art show
- Faithe - we should follow up with the art show school reps get together to plan the april art show. Get businesses to post art work after the art show.
- Art show planning meeting next week. See jen.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.