



Terra Nova Education Foundation General Meeting

November 12, 2020 7:00PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Rachel Cauteruccio at 7:05pm

In attendance: Rachel Cauteruccio, Jen Uter, Julie Arnaudo, David Rosenheim, Karen Sansot, Chris Zimdars, Anna Duckworth, Ralph Crame, Elizabeth Boldt, Megan Carey, Savannah Copeland, Marcus (sophomore father), Sharon Pelleriti

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were emailed to the board from the October 11, 2020, meeting and approved.

1. **Welcome** – Rachel C
2. **Treasurer's Update:** Karen S. reported that in October, TNEF received \$1,825 in donations related to the fall campaign in the form of checks or Paypal payments. She said expenses included software bought for the school and payment for the non-profit insurance. TNEF ended the month with a cash balance of \$23,440. Karen S said in November to date, the foundation received a \$10,000 check from Church of Christ and a separate \$200 donation and paid \$1,000 for the remainder of our annual insurance payment. The cash balance at the time of the meeting was \$32,640.
3. **School needs update:**
 - a) Ms. Carey said that Ms. Jenkins has agreed to come to a future TNEF meeting to share with members how the "NoRedInk" program is working, that it has been positively received and that it is being used in all English classes. Ms. Carey said teachers are already seeing gains and that the software has been very helpful.
 - b) Ms. Carey said overall distance learning is strong with a daily average attendance rate of 97%. She said grades have improved dramatically since the first progress report but freshmen and special education students are still struggling so the school is working to support them.
 - c) M. Carey said the district has entered into a contract with Paper, a 24-hour service that helps in all subjects with all interaction shared with teachers.
 - d) IT and Ms. Carey are discussing getting the Chromebooks connected to the Church of Christ donation and how to use them.
 - e) Ms. Carey said attendance at the virtual open house a few weeks ago was low but all of the material from it is available on the TNHS website.

- f) She said she's open to doing panels with prospective parents if they'd like to meet in smaller groups. Rachel C. suggested that Beth Boldt and Ms. Carey meet to talk about the 8th grade transition team.
 - g) Julie A. asked about finals and Ms. Carey said they won't change the bell schedule as in past years since classes are already in 80-minute blocks. She also said many teachers will not give traditional finals but instead more unit-based assessments and project-based finals over longer periods of time.
 - h) Marcus, the father of a daughter in 10th grade at TN, expressed concern that students aren't interacting in virtual breakout room. Ms. Carey said she's been talking to students about the challenge and that the school is looking for ways for better engagement. Ralph Crame said Carlmont HS is struggling with the same issue.
4. **Fundraising:** Rachel C
- a. Rachel C. said TNEF received the \$10,000 donation from Church of Christ along with 20 Chromebooks. She shared a 2-minute video of the event at TN produced by Eagle News International. Jen Uter asked about a "thank you" for Church of Christ. Julie A. said for big sponsors, TNEF typically prints a certificate to be framed and presents it with other items like flowers, cookies and a handwritten note signed by board members. There was a short discussion about replacing the TN sign at the front of the school. Ms. Carey said she wants to make sure students are involved in the discussion.
5. **Business Outreach:** Julie A. reported that TNEF received a \$500 donation from Jim Wagner. She said it's been difficult reaching out to big donors because these are personal relationships that are not the same over the phone during quarantine so she and Rita S. are working to find ways to connect in the COVID-era. Rachel C. asked about the Benevity donation and Karen S. said it looks like TNEF will get a \$200 match. Rachel C. said she'd check on that. Chris Z. said he website sponsor page still has old information and he'll work with Julie A. to update it. He also said if the local newspaper is taking ads, we can look at that.
6. **Online fundraiser ideas:**
- a. Rachel C said she spoke with Beth at Grape in the Fog who had good ideas. Rachel C. suggested we have a committee to coordinate drop off of wine for online tasting. She said we could do a "Choose Your Own Adventure" variety of fundraisers with wine experts, chef pairings, crafts, and painting-type events with different price points.
 - b. Dave R. said his wife Jackie could do a virtual yoga class. Beth B. suggested putting all of the events up as a series on the website and Rachel C. said to put that suggestion in the minutes for the next meeting. Rachel C. said she'll reach out to Roberta at Craft+Work Studio, she'll confirm with Beth that we're interested in virtual tasting and that this will be the main focus of the December meeting. Rachel C. said we should solicit straight donations too for those who prefer that method.
- **Rachel C adjourned meeting at 7:58 pm. Next Meeting (Virtual):** Thursday, December 10, 2020, 7PM (2nd Thursday of the month). *Previous month's meeting minutes are on TNEF website:* www.tneducationfoundation.org