



TSIC Manatee Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2020, 8:00 am – 9:30 am via Virtual Zoom Meeting

Prepared by Robert Hendrickson

Attendance: **Present:** *Anne Heller, Mark Barnebey, Rob Hendrickson, Mary Scott Ross, Ray Vicks, Teena Johnson, Louis Chaykin, Dan Doyle, Jay Krames*

Absent: *Ghingo Brooks, Laurey Stryker, Patrick Mackey, Jennifer Caba, Kristen Pepper*

I. **Call to Order at 8:05 am**

II. **Consent Agenda Items**

- August 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept by Rob and seconded by Mary.

III. **Committee Reports**

- Finance Committee (Financials) – Ray Vicks
 - Accountant Bob Eddy covered our Form 990 report and key changes. Contract hours stayed the same. Received \$160,000 from Florida Prepaid. We experienced a reduction in tuition expenses but a positive cash position. Motion to accept the report by Dr. Chaykin, seconded by Dan Doyle.
- Donor Development Committee – Laurey Stryker (covered by Anne Heller)
 - Year-end appeal will be sent during the week of November 9
 - Note that the Flasner match will be part of the year-end appeal
- Board Recruitments – Mark Barnebey
 - Welcome to our newest member, Jay Krames
 - Motion to accept Chuck Johnson as our newest board member by Dan and seconded by Ray.

IV. Executive Director's Report

- Over 400 new student applicants
- Having issues with families turning in their 1040s; Anne will look into this and report back with her understanding of why this is happening, perhaps reaching out to parents as needed
- Only 48 or so meet the qualifications including the tax return
- Maybe we enroll 30 students in December and 30 in the spring
- Will be taking measures to attract African American male student applicants
- Re Team Success school, we have been in touch with the founder; we have presented to the CEO; they are interested in buying scholarships from us
- About half of the school district qualifies for the program
- Per Ray, there are other ways to validate income e.g. a W2 or 1099; Anne will ask the state if these other income documents will suffice; how the does the state do it if they have not filed a tax return?
- Met with Mary Parker Foundation and we asked for 100K; hopeful
- Suncoast gave us 20K – 10 for scholarships and 10 for operations
- Presented to Synovus; hoping for commitment
- Met with new donor Devin Dash and we will be presenting to Axium; they are interested
- Dynamic Electric – interest in mentoring and sponsoring a scholarship for a military family
- Presenting to charter schools to see if they will buy scholarships
- FCCI wants to meet next year and partner
- Flasner Trust – you can continue to make up to \$500 donations and they will match so long as the funds are there, and we don't think there is any waiting period
- Michael Saunders - \$20K sponsoring two scholarships
- Continue having student zoom sessions and give one hour of community service hours
- Held two mentor mingle nights with good attendance
- Held community council zoom catchup
- New donor provided 3 laptops for our staff
- Participating in a chamber golf tournament
- Joined the Target gift program and received over \$2,500
- Adinah Torres moved on b/c she needed a full-time job
- Secured a doctorate student who will be helping next year
- Approaching companies to pitch our donate-a-dollar, launch-a-scholar program

V. Executive Session (Closed to Staff)

- Board members feel that Anne continues to focus on the right things.

VI. Old Business

- None

VII. New Business

- Invocation Discussion
 - Mark raised the question of doing an invocation at the beginning of our board meetings, as some board members had raised concerns.
 - Mark clarified that we are not a religious organization by definition but asked for input from everyone.
 - Rob explained that he would prefer board members to pray privately and to replace this portion of our meetings with an opportunity for one or two board members to share examples of thankfulness.
 - Mary expressed that she likes that we start with a prayer and that our mission reinforces this. She also expressed her opinion that praying during our meeting does not make us a religious organization.
 - Anne pointed out that we very clearly stipulate that we are not a religious organization when we apply for grants.
 - Jay explained that he was surprised when he saw the invocation on the agenda; that it caused confusion and should remain personal and outside of the organization.
 - Lou agreed with Jay and said there are positive arguments to removing this and focusing on a generic blessing and point of thankfulness.
 - Ray suggested we restate our mission to kick off the meetings to ground the group and remind everyone why we exist. He also noted that we have the feel-good discussion at the end and that there are other ways besides a prayer to accomplish our goals.
 - Dan indicated that he is disappointed that we are having this conversation but supports what the full board decides.
 - Mark thanked everyone for their candor and promised to circle back with a decision.
- Resignation of Vince Foderingham
 - Mark moved to assign Emeritus status to Vin; everyone agreed and Dr. Chaykin seconded the motion.

VIII. TSIC “Feel Good” Moment

- Board members shared several feel-good moments: our new website, that we had 400 student applications, that we are maintaining 2-3 speaking engagements a month.

IX. Adjourned at 9:57 am