



**EQUITY ALLIANCE MN
BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 19, 2017
EQUITY ALLIANCE MN OFFICES
5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Kitty Gogins, Board Chair, at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

ATTENDANCE:

SSD 006: South St. Paul
ISD 16: Spring Lake Park
ISD 197: West St. Paul
ISD 199: Inver Grove Heights
ISD 623: Roseville
ISD 624: White Bear Lake
ISD 831: Forest Lake
ISD 834: Stillwater
Perpich Center for Arts Education –
Crosswinds

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Jeff McClellan
Marilynn Forsberg - Vice Chair
Byron Schwab
Cindy Nordstrom
Kitty Gogins – Chair
Ellen Fahey
Karen Morehead (absent)
George Hoepfner – Clerk
Linda Henning

STAFF:

Dr. Jean Lubke, Executive Director; Janine Stammeler, Office Manager; Heidi Fransen, Achievement and Integration Student Programs Coordinator

GUESTS:

Rita Garcia – Business Partners Plus

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

Marilynn Forsberg (ISD 16) moved to approve the agenda. Byron Schwab (ISD 197) seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

OPEN FORUM

There was no one signed up to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Linda Henning (Perpich/Crosswinds) moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Byron Schwab (ISD 197) seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting in the

affirmative.

FOCUS AREA #1 – PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT EDUCATE AND SUPPORT STAFF, STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES AND DIMINISH BARRIERS TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY:

I. Summer PD Programming

Mary Bussman, Equity & Integration Consultant for Professional Development & Program Evaluation, and Karin Swainey, Equity & Achievement Consultant for AVID & Student Programming, created a listing of professional learning opportunities available this summer. Dr. Lubke shared this document with the Board. She stated that there is a live version on our website with links to the registration forms. All but two of the offerings listed are open to any districts (two of the offerings are specific to Equal Opportunity Schools work being done in three of our member districts and are only open to those districts).

FOCUS AREA #2 – LEAD REGIONAL DIALOGUE, ADVOCACY, AND ACTION FOR EQUITABLE EDUCATION SYSTEMS AND OUTCOMES:

I. ReImagine Minnesota Update

Dr. Lubke has been serving on the leadership team, along with some member district superintendents, for ReImagine Minnesota. She shared an update on this initiative. She stated that several World Café sessions were held and cluster data was collected from the sessions. She noted that the raw data is also now available. The team worked on harvesting the data and putting it into themes. She noted that there were three main themes that appeared in the data: students want to be seen (acknowledge individualism); there is a strong desire for more relationship-building; and there is a need for more equitable distribution of resources. The leadership group will continue to work with the data and figure out how we do what is being asked of us as schools. They will be working on putting together a plan to share with districts. She also noted that there will be a Business Partners Café on May 15th.

FOCUS AREA #3 – STRENGTHEN EQUITY ALLIANCE MN’S BUSINESS MODEL TO PROMOTE OUR OWN FISCAL AUTONOMY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND GROWTH:

I. Business Model Presentation – Rita Garcia (ACTION taken)

Rita Garcia from Business Partners Plus presented the proposed strategic business plan for Equity Alliance MN for 2016-2020.

After some discussion, Cindy Nordstrom (ISD 199) made a motion to approve the Equity Alliance MN Social Impact Model with the requested changes during the discussion being made. Jeff McClellan (SSD 006) seconded the motion. The motion carried with six members voting in the affirmative and two members voting in the negative. There was understanding that the plan will be flexible and open to adjustments and adaptations as we learn.

Linda Henning (Perpich/Crosswinds) made a motion to approve the Equity Alliance MN

Operating Model with requested changes made. Requested changes will also modify the Social Impact Model. Cindy Nordstrom (ISD 199) seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Byron Schwab (ISD 197) made a motion to adopt the Equity Alliance MN Pricing Strategy-Hybrid Premium Value, which will aim for medium to high-price and high quality products utilizing the three-tiered system presented. Linda Henning (Perpich/Crosswinds) seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members present voted in the affirmative.

II. Preliminary FY18 Budget

Dr. Lubke presented the preliminary FY18 budget based on member and non-member commitments and grant funds that we have received to-date. She stated that we should be able to secure at least another \$55,000 in grant funding. She stated that we will have non-member participation in professional development and student programming. The district-wide expenditures are decreasing for many reasons including a decrease in Board and Executive Director compensations. More costs will be reported as programmatic expenses and fewer as purely administrative expenses. Expenses are also decreasing due to fewer member districts and decreased participation. Income is being reported with a column of actual income and a column of anticipated income. The anticipated FY18 budget is slightly less than the actual FY17 budget.

There was discussion about continuing to offer education grants to member districts for pilot programs. This topic was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

III. ACTION: Approval of Joint Powers Agreement

Dr. Lubke presented and explained the edited version of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) proposed for approval. She stated that some districts have shared the edited version with their district leadership and have received positive feedback. Byron Schwab (ISD 197) and Marilyn Forsberg (ISD 16) abstained from the vote as their districts will not be members of the collaborative when the updated JPA goes into effect. George Hoepfner (ISD 834) made a motion to approve the updated JPA. Ellen Fahey (ISD 624) seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting members present voting in the affirmative. The revised JPA will be sent to the districts for approval in May or June Board meetings.

IV. Request for Quotes for Audit Services

Dr. Lubke informed the Board that, to be fiscally responsible, we are seeking quotes on several of our contracted services. Kathy Miller and Janine Stammler solicited three-year quotes from six auditing firms for our annual auditing services. Of the four firms that responded to the RFQ, MMKR, our current auditing firm, came in with the lowest quote. With the new quote, our cost for auditing services will decrease \$3,817 for this year, remain the same for FY 18, and increase by only 2.1% for FY19.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports

BOARD FORUM

Byron Schwab (ISD 197) - Byron reported that Peter Olson-Skog, current Assistant Superintendent for Roseville Area Schools, has been selected as ISD 197's new Superintendent. He will assume the Superintendent role on July 1, 2017. Byron also noted that at the March 13th Board meeting, ISD 197 entered into an agreement with architects and another firm to look at future bond work.

Ellen Fahey (ISD 624) – Ellen reported that White Bear Lake has named Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak as their new Superintendent. He currently serves in the capacity of Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations for White Bear Lake. He will assume the Superintendent role on July 1, 2017. Ellen also noted that White Bear Lake has all 11 American Indian seniors graduating this year. They will receive their eagle feathers in a ceremony prior to graduation and will be able to display their feathers during the commencement ceremony. She also noted that at the March 6, 2017 White Bear Lake Board meeting, there was a unanimous decision to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day.

Cindy Nordstrom (ISD 199) – Cindy reported that Inver Grove Heights is participating in Equal Opportunity Schools' Lead Higher project, which is now being publicized throughout the district. She also noted that their Tri-District College & Career Readiness plan has been approved by MDE. Cindy also reported that the district is putting together a survey to evaluate the overall health and satisfaction of the district. She also noted that the Inver Grove Heights Community Schools Board has been very active in the legislative process that is currently happening.

Jeff McClellan (SSD 006) – Jeff thanked Dr. Lubke for presenting at the South St. Paul Board meeting regarding the Joint Powers Agreement edits.

George Hoepfner (ISD 834) – George noted that Stillwater Area Schools is doing well with the lawsuits being filed against the district regarding the closing of schools. He reported that they will be building a new elementary school in Woodbury, Brookview Elementary. There will be an ELL teacher assigned there as they are predicting a large Somali population. George also noted that Stillwater's Distinguished Alumni for 2017 have been named: Marilyn Abercrombie, first female photographer for National Geographic; Denis McDonough, White House Chief of Staff for President Barack Obama; and Lee Valsvik, one of the best-known media personalities in the Twin Cities. The Distinguished Alumni will be honored at a dinner on June 2, 2017, as well as at the Stillwater High School commencement ceremony on June 3, 2017.

Marilynn Forsberg (ISD 16) – Marilynn reported that Spring Lake Park has four National Merit semi-finalists. She noted that they have a high school principal retiring, so they will be working to fill that position, as well as hiring for the new building. She also reported that the site for the new building should be finalized on Thursday, April 20, 2017. Marilynn also noted that the district is continuing to work on personalization.

Linda Henning (Perpich/Crosswinds) – Linda reported that the first round of Executive Director candidate interviews begins this week. They anticipate that they will have a finalist selected by late May. She also noted that Crosswinds has a fundraiser taking place, and the staff and students are hoping for the best.

Kitty Gogins (ISD 624) – Kitty reported that the Roseville Area School ‘School Climate’ report shows students perceive a high and gradually increasing level of student-teacher trust; discipline referrals and suspensions of students of color is trending downward; and extracurricular participation for students of color is gradually increasing. Roseville continues to work on the diversity of our staff and we have seen some improvement this last year. An analysis of our hiring practices show our hiring rate and retention of staff of color is strong, but we need to work on increasing the people of color in our applicant pool (only 8%) if we are to meet our staff of color goals. Kitty also reported that Roseville’s Director of Equity is retiring on June 30, 2017. With the loss of two cabinet members (new West St. Paul Superintendent is also from Roseville), a restructuring of cabinet roles will occur.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Kitty Gogins adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

EMID Board Clerk

Date