

**The Hope Center for Autism, Inc.**  
Minutes of a Board of Directors Meeting  
February 10, 2014  
1695 SE Indian Street, Stuart, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by President Sherry Bernal.

Directors Present: Sherry Bernal, Linda Peirce, Cheryl Hendrix, and Jim Applegate.  
Directors Absent: Becky Dresser

Others Present: Executive Director - Stacie Routt, Karina Vidal and Shannon Keiss

Motion was made to approve the agenda. There was a motion to amend the agenda to include the election of directors, since there was no meeting in December. The motion passed. The agenda was approved as amended.

Tax Issue: Sherry reported a hearing was set for the appeal. A postponement was requested and granted because of additional issues the board of tax appeals wanted addressed. Although the meeting was rescheduled, we did not receive notice and as a consequence the appeal was dismissed.

Status of Palm City Property: The real estate agents have reported that no one interested in the property because of the zoning. The board agrees to wait for at least another year before seeking rezoning. The question was asked as to what we are doing to look for other property. Linda says the Pine School is planning on leaving Stuart to move south. She believes it might be available after 2016. The property accommodates about 100 students with a gymnasium, cafeteria and a library. The property is located on 10<sup>th</sup> St off East Ocean Blvd.

Donation of Architectural Services and Donation of Legal Services: Because attempting to rezone the property has been tabled, these items do not need to be addressed.

First Tee and Autism: Three sessions of golfing have been held and the students are enjoying the program. The school is obligated to pay the instructor \$25 an hour for his services. Jim said will seek a grant to pay for it. Some issues were discussed concerning the ability of the instructor to relate to our special students. The lessons are every Thursday for one hour. The classrooms are taken on a rotating basis.

Enjoyment Books: This year's sales have exceeded all previous years, thanks to Jim's efforts and the added incentive featured with the sale of the books at the Santa Lucia Pro Shop.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting. The motion passed.

Election of Directors and Officers: A motion was made to elect all current board members. The motion passed.

A motion was made to reelect all current officers in their current positions. The motion passed.

There was no public comment.

Report of the Executive Director: Stacie introduced Karina Vidal as the new parent liaison. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Karina Vidal as the parent liaison for the following year. The parent liaison directs parents of sources of information and keeps them updated on school events. After some discussion it was agreed that it is a good idea to have the Parent Liaison develop a page on Facebook as a resource for the parents.

The Parent Training sessions offered by the school currently lacks participation by the parents. Karina was the only parent at the last session.

The financial reports were published and sent to the directors via email. There have been significant budget cuts by the state, resulting in income that is \$93,000 less than what was in the budget. The shortage of funds has been to delay the purchase of equipment and supplies, using the surplus from supplemental services and health insurance premiums have been lower than what was in the budget. Shannon and Stacie have returned to assisting in the classrooms and with OJT for the two new paraprofessionals.

There are currently 31 students. Three new students started this semester.

Plans for the golf tournament are underway. Auction items are needed. Board members are encouraged to generate interest in any way they can.

A grant will be sought from United Way for \$20,000 to help fund summer school. A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously to approve the seeking of the grant with Sherry signing the request.

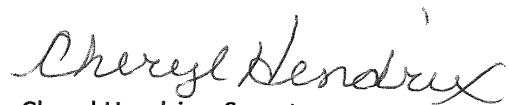
A question was raised about seeking a grant from Autism Speaks. Neither Stacie nor Cheryl have visited the Autism Speaks website for grant information in some time. The issue will be looked into to see what grants might be available.

The next board meeting will be on April 21 at noon.

There were no additional Action Items and no New Business to come before the board.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cheryl Hendrix, Secretary