

The Hope Center for Autism, Inc.
Minutes of a Board of Directors Meeting
October 14, 2013
1695 SE Indian Street, Stuart, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Vice-President Linda Peirce.

Directors Present: Linda Peirce, Cheryl Hendrix, and Jim Applegate.

Directors Absent: Sherry Bernal and Becky Dresser

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

Motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

A Motion was made to accept the resignation of Dr. Miriam Wheeler. With reluctance, the motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last meeting, as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed.

- A. Tax Issue: In Sherry's absence, Stacie reported that the appeal is still pending.
- B. Lodge Golf Tournament: Stacie reported that although there were not as many auction items, there were many good sponsorships. The final tally on proceeds from the tournament are not yet available.
- C. Enjoyment Books: The books sell for \$35 with \$10 of that amount contributed to the school. The books have not yet arrived. When they arrive Jim Applegate said that he would place some in the pro shops.
- D. Donation of Architectural services: Any architectural plans will have to wait until it is known where the school will be located. Jim Applegate asked for copies of what has been prepared to date.
- E. Donation of Legal services re: Re-zoning of Property: Jim Applegate has met with Bob Reins who is confident the re-zoning could be accomplished. Not all the legal services can be donated. There is enough money in the building fund to cover some of the legal fees. Jim Applegate will meet with Jack Carmody for a second opinion regarding the prospects of whether proceeding with the re-zoning application might be successful.
- F. Audit: The audit was addressed at the last meeting.

Public Comment: There was no one present for public comment

Executive Directors Report: There are 29 FTE students. Although the budget was based on 32, the staffing matches the student ratio. The eligibility determination process with the school district has been slow for the additional three students. There is nothing that can be done to speed up the process. There is a belief that the district has 60 school days to complete the process.

There are two staff changes. Dannie, a paraprofessional, who has been with the school for many years is moving out of the area. Judy, the secretary, has also left, do to relocation.

The real estate listing has been signed. The agents have indicated there have been a couple of inquiries.

Linda Peirce made a presentation at Ameriprise, a company that provides the school with approximately \$260 a month in income from payroll deductions from their employees, with corporate matching funds. (The school also receives regular donations from UPS.

The golf flyers are printed. The golf tournament will be on Sunday, April 13, 2014 at Santa Lucia Golf and Country Club.

Action Items: Jim Applegate reported on The First Tee program. A segment is dealing with autistic children. In West Palm Beach the Renaissance Center brings students to the program. It might be possible to start a program for our students at Willoughby Country Club. The program starts with children at age 5 with "snag" golf. The major difficulty in starting the program would be transportation. It was agreed that the prospect of participating in the program would be explored for summer camp. Character Counts has some small grants of \$1500 that might help fund it. The instructors are paid about \$25 an hour and there is one instructor for every 10 children.

New Business: There was no new business.

The need for additional board members was discussed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35.

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl Hendrix, Secretary