



MINUTES
SENSE Board of Directors
Monday, December 4, 2023 - 5:30pm
SENSE School
1601 Barth Avenue, Indianapolis, IN

Board Attendance: Jessica Ballard-Barnett, Bryan Bernard, Lee Lewellen, Jodi Golden (virtual), and Bethany Gosewehr

1. Call To Order

- a. Start time: 5:34 PM

2. Executive Committee – Jessica Ballard-Barnett

a. Draft Audit – Derek Magee, Donovan CPAs

- i. The audit opinion is unmodified (or “clean”). Appropriately documented and supported, so this is good.
- ii. Update Adoption of Accounting Standards on leases – the school did not do anything wrong, there was a law change.
- iii. There were 2 adjustments made due to new standards but otherwise no disagreement with management. Good and timely communication.
- iv. No SBOA internal control findings
- v. Did a deep dive into the ESSER grant money – no issues there.
- vi. In the functional expenses, like to see 80/20 between program and administrative. SENSE is above that so that is great.
- vii. No debt or interest with ESSER, so that is very good.
- viii. Thankful for the opportunity to serve SENSE!

b. Retreat Dates

- i. Jessica will be sending out a Doodle poll for dates in January or February.
- ii. Would like to discuss board recruitment

3. Education Committee Report – Colleen Pawlicki

- a. Next meeting is December 13th at 11 AM
- b. Last meeting, they discussed the strategies the school is trying out – the Harvard system
- c. There is a new committee member that works at Southeast Community Center.

4. Marketing/Fundraising Committee Report – Bethany Gosewehr/Bryan Bernard

a. Fundraising Update

i. Breakfast with Santa

- 1. We have determined that the gift wrapping component brings too high of a liability to do. Taking that portion out of the budget means the event would only make \$500 so it has been determined that is too heavy of a lift for little return for 2023.
- 2. Pivoting instead to Photos with Santa as a marketing event.
 - a. Santa will be in attendance with Mrs. Claus. He provides candy canes for children that come. Mrs. Claus is willing to do a reading of “The Night Before Christmas”

- b. Lee Lewellen will take photos and another board member or staff member will keep track of family names and email addresses.
- c. Ideas for other activities: hot chocolate and cotton candy, coloring contest, gift bags with a toy, games and crafts
- d. We may ask board members to contribute monetarily once we know what expenses will be.

5. Finance Committee Update – Jodi Golden

a. Financials

i. Budget Readjustments

1. Income:

- a. Over what we budgeted
- b. Cash is still pretty healthy.
- c. Money market deposits have been made.
- d. Still waiting on some grant money to come in though cash is still pretty good.

2. Expenses:

- a. Some construction issues came up that needed to be paid so this was a little unexpected.
 - i. Total came in within the percentage expected, but the timing was off. Made the audit a little more difficult but is straightened out.

6. Staff Reports

a. Head of School Report – Dr. Kristie Sweeney

- i. April Shinn resigned (intermediate principal). We have determined that we have a great team in place, so Dr. Sweeney will take over these responsibilities for now.
- ii. Plan to bring in a coach twice a week beginning in the spring in order to bring the curriculum up to match state requirements. Giving teachers two hours of planning twice a week to give them time to implement and plan.
- iii. Also waiting on the state to give final spec standards to understand what the students need to know. Piloting a lot of different things so we can make a good action plan for moving forward.
- iv. Leadership is on board for all of these changes and is moving forward.
- v. Will work on next year's calendar over Christmas. If we want to be a destination school, teachers need time to plan and figure out how to get that done.

7. September 2023 Minutes Approval

- a. Motion to approve October 2023 minutes: Bethany Gosewehr
- b. 2nd: Bryan Bernard
- c. Pass: Motion passed at 5:58 PM.

8. Old Business

- a. Emma from the Mayor's Office attended virtually. The board recruitment event is scheduled for March 6.

9. **Public Comment**

- a. No public comment shared.

10. **Call to motion to adjourn:**

- a. **Motion:** Lee Lewellen
- b. **2nd:** Bryan Bernard
- c. Meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Next Board Meeting: January 22, 2024, 5:30pm