



Education Collaborative of WNY
Annual Meeting of the School Heads
May 7, 2015
The Park School of Buffalo

MINUTES

Present: Tom Sullivan, Jennifer Demert, Jody Douglass, Adam Barber, Mary Holzerland, Brad Rogers, Jill Monaco, Margaret Syaszak, Dawn Riggie, Anne Kohl, Kate Naughton, Ron Buggs, Mary Rockwell, Chris Lauricella, Fr. Michael Sajda, Robert Scott, Rebecca Kranz, Eric Yarwood, Carol Kostyniak, Rick Bryan

1. Chris Lauricella called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. And welcomed everyone to the Park School campus.
2. Anne Kohl, as the Treasurer, reported on the consortium finances.
 - 2014-15 current financials are on target, with the fiscal year ending on June 30.
 - The STEAM budget will be explored in great detail later in the meeting.
 - EdCo had to issue 1099 forms to all conference presenters and camp teachers.
 - Audit has been returned with management letter. No surprises in the letter. EdCo is a small operation and there needs to be controls on opening cash and recording deposits. Anne and Rick are working on the new systems that are needed.
 - EdCo has hired a part-time book keeper.

3. Chris Lauricella then presented the Board of Directors slate for 2015-16. There is only one change to note. Anne Kohl has agreed to serve another three-year term as the Treasurer. Her term will be completed in June 2018. There was a motion, seconded, and it was unanimously passed.
4. Rick Bryan began his Executive Director report by reporting on the status of the STEAM grant renewal for year 2. The Oishei Foundation in mid-April came to Rick and asked EdCo to take a 25% reduction in Year 2. This was due to Oishei being over-extended this year due to their Children's Hospital commitment. After surveying the STEAM coordinators and seeking the advice of the Grant Builders group and the Oishei staff, it was recommended that we seek the funds in May rather than July, as first preferred. So, the process for renewal was ramped up. Rick thanked the school heads and the coordinators for all their efforts in securing documentation and budgets. He believes that the revised grant will be approved, but questions will need to be answered and discussed about monies not spent by schools in year 1.

Several school heads expressed concern that the Sabbatical funds were frozen for Year 2. Rick answered that the priority seemed to be for the school capacity funds. Jennifer Demert noted that it is important for the funds to be reinstated, and she wished that the grant process coincided with the school budget cycle. Chris Lauricella noted that the process seemed to come at a difficult time in the school year. Some school heads expressed disappointment in learning about the issues at this point.

5. Rick then noted that this year, the JROF was requesting an extensive year end report for the scholarship program. Four schools have already submitted their reports; the deadline is June 1.
6. The packets from Eaton supply were passed out to each school head. Rick recounted his meeting with the CFO's

about school supplies, and that a small committee had been formed to explore WB Mason as the frontrunner. However, there had been no response from Mason, so Rick began to discuss a consortium pricing deal with Eaton. Eaton has agreed to lower the price of paper, and to give incentives for consortium purchasing. Rick asked the school heads to go speak with their CFO's and tell him whether they were on board with Eaton. Several school heads expressed dismay that this issue was coming before them in the meeting, and urged Rick to simply continue working with the CFO's on issues like this.

7. Rick then talked about his conversations with the Cullen Foundation. He is currently working on two proposals with this new foundation. For the upcoming year, Cullen will not be working with any individual schools, but is interested with working with us as a consortium. The first proposal is additional scholarships. Rick has been in discussions with the foundation along with the Bison Fund and Buffalo Prep. We are exploring both middle school and high school scholarships, where the scholarship would follow the child rather than be granted to the school. The selection and other details are still being discussed; the scholarships would not be available until the 2016-17 school year.
8. The second proposal involves making EdCo a multicultural resource center for the 16 schools. The concentration would be on finding teaching candidates of color for our schools. To achieve this, Rick would hire a minority graduate of our schools, who preferably was part of the Buffalo Prep program. The staff member would go to individual schools to explore their alumni records of potential teachers of color; represent EdCo at minority job fairs; and explore potential candidates at local colleges. It would require the willingness on the part of our schools to list all job openings, and be willing to strongly consider outside

- candidates for openings. Rick has secured the partnership of the local Teach for America office and staff.
9. After a long discussion, there was a clear consensus to move forward with the second proposal. All agreed it was a priority and they would enthusiastically support this initiative. The first proposal raised many concerns. Some felt that the details were unclear and they needed more information as those details were clarified. Others worried that this might increase competition among our schools rather than collaboration. They worried that one or two schools might benefit rather than many. While many saw the need for more scholarships, particularly as Buffalo Prep is trying to increase its number of students, they wondered how it would work if the scholarship followed the student rather than originated with the school. In the end, the school heads urged Rick to continue to slowly work on the details and to keep them informed.
 10. Eric Yarwood discussed the upcoming maker faire. Ten schools are signed up, and we expect a good crowd at the Museum of Science on May 16. The STEAM Conference needs more presenters. It will be held on Monday August 3 at Nardin Academy. The next day will be for workshops. Finally, we have begun to receive registrations for the seven summer camps. We have hired two people to help us create a brochure. A mock-up of the brochure was distributed.
 11. The 2015-16 calendar of meetings was referenced. Rick asked schools to contact him to host meetings.
 12. Chris Lauricella asked the school heads to remain for a brief Executive Committee meeting. Eric and Rick were excused.
 13. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.