

Minutes of a Meeting
Somerville I.S.D. Education Foundation (SEF)
Wednesday, January 24, 2024

A regular meeting of the Somerville Education Foundation was called to order at the Somerville I.S.D. administrative offices at 6:35pm by President Ben Flencher.

Present: Ben Flencher (President), Melissa Tharp, Joni Urbanosky (Vice President), Mark S. Browning (Secretary), Linda Pinkerton, Niki Neuendorff

Absent: Quienshia Griffin and Theresa Perez

Guests attending: Eric Holton, Steven Toliver, Justin Lindsey and four unannounced guest from the community

Upon motion duly made by, Joni Urbanosky seconded by Linda Pinkerton, the minutes of the December 27, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected. There was no November 2023 meeting held due to the holidays.

Financial report: Niki Neuendorff reported that the Foundation's checking account balance is \$22,516.07 as of today. This includes BV Gives deposit of \$10,909.04. The raffle prize cruise payment of \$1,500.00 was issued. The CPA is working on our 2023 Form 990EZ filing. Joni Urbanosky will get a QR code to Ninfa Stevens at Somerville I.S.D. to include on our website page to facilitate donations from supporters. On motion by Joni Urbanosky, seconded by Mark Browning, the financial report was unanimously approved.

Further discussion was held from the December 2023 approval for grants to teachers pursuing a Master's degree and paraprofessionals in the district to further their education credentials. It was noted that paraprofessionals might qualify for Pell Grants covering their costs, but there are educational expenses outside of tuition and fees we can help cover. Eric Holton will develop an online application. The number of awards for this and student scholarships will be determined by number of applicants and cash on hand, while maintaining our previously stated minimum in our checking account. The students have been coached on pursuing and completing scholarship applications this spring so we can expect many more applicants. We will be doing online applications for scholarships this year. Timeline for teacher and student scholarships will be a March 2024 application deadline, April 2024 determine recipients and award amount with May 2024 being the presentation at the annual District awards banquet.

The District is pending and April 2024 date for a showcase tour of the teacher grants that were funded in the fall 2023 to see the work accomplished.

Ben Flencher reported on a meeting he had with Dr. Kyle Mertens with our neighbor education foundation in Brenham. He shared some practices and ideas such as: (1) They have a board of ten similar in size to ours, (2) they produce a student created video of their activities used at fundraisers, their website and social media, (3) an art show fundraiser auction (split with students) and BBQ banquet where they utilize NHS students to help wait tables, (4) they solicit their larger district vendors for auction prizes

Mark Browning is pending responses on opening a brokerage account with a firm in the Brazos Valley in order to accommodate gifts of appreciated stock. There is a potential gift of this type and we have no means of accepting it at present. He is also to send Ninfa Stevens the past few approved minutes to be posted on our webpage so the community can be better informed of the Foundation's work and initiatives.

Sonic in Somerville is interested in a profit share in the spring 2024 but date has not been set.

The next meeting of the SEF is set for the third Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 6:30pm in the SISD administration offices.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Browning
Secretary