

**NDSG Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, January 12, 2023  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Daniel Baron (Agent), Sascha Betts (Assistant Chair). Shanti Elliott, (Program Co-chair); Mary Harris (Secretary), John Lockhart (Chair), Carol Redfield-Mims (Program Co-chair), David Wasserman (Treasurer)

The minutes refer to the Bylaws of the School Project Foundation, Inc., (Doing Business as the North Dakota Study Group) as Amended March 25, 2021.

Meeting location and time: Zoom, 5:30 p.m. EST, Thursday, January 12, 2023, 5:36 p.m.- 8:03 p.m.

**I. Meeting Opening**

**A. Call to Order**

John called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m., all voting and invited members being present.

**B. Approval of May 16, 2022. Minutes**

Mary reviewed the contents of the minutes, requesting updates on some items. Daniel moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Sascha, and passed.

**C. Report of the Treasurer**

Daniel reported that he and David had filed 2021 tax documents, which were accepted by the State of Indiana, which has changed its tax reporting procedures for future years in ways that will be helpful to smaller non-profits.

David, John, and Mary are now receiving monthly statements from Old National Bank, and Daniel is not.

David sent out a report prior to the meeting, as follows:

- July 1, 2002, balance \$46,582.44  
Of this, \$18, 100.00 was associated with the Youth Fellowship Program and \$28,482.44 with the NDSG treasury.
- Current year expenditures so far:  
\$2,860 deposit to St. Dorothy's Rest  
\$700 to 2 youth for travel

David anticipated additional expenditures associated with the web platform (\$800), webmaster stipend (\$3,000), and co-chair stipends (\$3,000 each).

John suspended further reporting from the treasurer as expenditures from the treasury comprised the major business of the meeting.

**II. Report on Youth Fellowship Program**

Daniel reported that Fred Bay is no longer affiliated with the Vermont Community Foundation due to a change of living situation associated with family health issues. We cannot expect further funding from this source.

Sascha reported that five youth fellowship groups are active and hoping to be represented at the annual meeting. These involve youth in Vermont, Mississippi, Texas, and Chicago, as well as in the Oakland area. One group has developed a website called *Youth for Justice* that is sophisticated but not yet launched. One group is focusing on art as a vehicle for activism. Another is studying the college experience of immigrant students who are undocumented. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day is an important date for youth planning and will be led by Pheonix. Shanti reported that the Oakland/Skyline youth are focusing on mental health in schools, which has influenced the development of the annual meeting plan. The Skyline School group includes former student Chepe, who has moved on to college and will be leading a separate fellowship on the importance of multicultural activism through the storying of La Raza.

Asked about Jackson youth, Carol said that Dr. Roshunda Allen, from Toogaloo College, is hoping to bring to the annual meeting teacher education students whose college experience also includes work with high school youth.

**III. Report of the Co-chairs**

Shanti reported that she and Carol have been continuing in the role of co-chairs, trying to sustain the spirit and people of NDSG primarily through youth organizing, the teachers' stories project, and the meeting planning committee. Leadership of young people has been central to the planning work, even as it focused on teacher sustainability. Youth have come to see that teacher sustainability is essential to teaching and learning that matters. Sascha added that space for Black women is important to the planners.

Carol discussed the gap between teachers and future teachers in maintaining sustainable pedagogy that addresses the cultural identities of students. The annual meeting has the potential for developing this exchange between experienced and prospective teachers.

Shanti presented plans, including budget plans, for the 2023 annual meeting and circulated them before the meeting. The document included lists of interested participants, anticipated meeting costs, and possible sources of funding. In general, funding has not been committed from anticipated possible sources. Shanti reported the anticipated cost of the meeting at \$31,000. Sources of income included meeting registration fees, the Youth Fellowship fund, and donations from members. Invited donations from Oakland schools and the Mississippi Education Foundation were still possible but had not been committed. Another emerging problem was the recent discovery that local transportation provided by St. Dorothy's Rest does not include transportation to the airport, which is about 80 miles away.

Asked for an evaluation of the co-chair structure that has emerged since stipends were approved last year, Shanti said the current model is not sustainable. The meeting budget request included a \$2,000 stipend request for each of the co-chairs and for Sascha as Youth Program Coordinator. By this time in the meeting, Carol and Sascha had left, and they were not

present for subsequent discussion and action on budget requests. This is consistent with Compensation Approval Policies articulated in Article 10.5 of the By-laws.

#### **IV. Budget Action by Board of Directors**

Shanti continued to meet with John, David, and Mary through clarification of meeting costs and the status of possible sources of income, both for the meeting and for NDSG in general.

David reported his discussion with Lyn DeLorme about the webmaster's stipend had influenced her decision to work this year as a volunteer. She said that her work on the virtual annual meetings had justified the stipends she had received, but her role in managing registration for a face-to-face meeting was less demanding.

Mary said she would attempt to raise \$5000 for scholarships by offering matching funds using a model developed in earlier years by Deborah Meier.

John led discussion that encouraged Shanti's clarification of details from the meeting budget request. He developed the following statement as a motion that was approved by the Board of Directors. Shanti left the meeting prior to official action by the Board.

#### **NDSG 2023 Annual Meeting Funding**

The Board of the North Dakota Study Group Foundation met to consider the request for additional funding for the February 2023 meeting from program planning co-chairs Shanti Elliot and Carol Redford-Mims. In considering the request, the Board must balance its two chief charges: to monitor and responsibly disperse funds and to enable NDSG programming. The following are major concerns with considering the request: granting the request could result in the most substantial draw-down the NDSG treasury has seen; the effects next year could result in seriously limited scholarship and funding opportunities; and if the treasury falls to a low enough level, it will not be possible to make purchases and commitments, which could end NDSG. These concerns point to one stipulation for granting this request: Every effort must be made next year to create a meeting that does not draw down funds, and ideally, would increase funds.

In its vote on Thursday, January 12, 2023, the Board adopted the following resolution: In recognition of the need to enable a high-quality annual meeting, the NDSG Foundation commits to funding the February 2023 meeting by promising to pay for the following items required to hold the meeting, recognizing that exact amounts may differ from these estimates:

- St Dorothy's Rest, lodging and food – \$14,300
- Bay Area ground transportation – \$1,000
- Supplies/Back-up/Incidentals – \$500
- Refreshments – \$500
- Insurance – \$120
- Virtual/hybrid support (Agnotti) – \$650
- Youth Leadership stipend: Sascha – \$2,000
- Co-Chair stipend: Carol – \$2,000
- Co-Chair stipend: Shanti – \$2,000

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Furthermore, in order to ensure robust meeting attendance and participation, the NDSG Foundation commits to providing additional funding to purchase airfare, for an estimate 7-9 people, limited to \$9,000.

The preference clearly is to spend less and conserve funds for future meetings. The Board trusts and defers to the co-chairs to make financial decisions for the meeting within the expectations of this resolution.

Next year, every effort must be made to ensure the meeting has at the worst, a neutral impact on the treasury, and preferably, some profit to continue to ensure scholarships, other programming, and the annual meeting.

### **V. Other Actions Taken**

#### **A. Conflict of Interest Documentation**

John asked Mary to collect Conflict of Interest Statements for 2023 from members of the Board of Directors.

#### **B. Plans for the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held the last week in April. This will be considered the Annual Meeting as specified in the By-laws, Article 6.3.

### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by John at 8:03 p.m. EST.

Mary Harris  
Secretary