

**NDSG Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, May 16, 2022  
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 start time: Zoom, 8:30 p.m. EST, Monday, May 16, 2022

**I. Meeting Opening**

**A. Call to Order**

John called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m., all voting and invited members being present.

**B. Approval of November 15, 2021, Minutes**

Mary requested approval of the minutes of the November 15, 2021, meeting. No corrections being noted, the minutes were approved as presented through a motion made by David and seconded by Sascha.

**II. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Account Balance, Income, and Expenditures**

David reported that the current account balance is \$46,582.44. This includes \$8,100 specifically designated for youth in contributions made by Fred Bay in 2020 and 2021. Both contributions were made with the understanding that funds could be carried over into later fiscal years.

David reported expenditures of \$12,844.17 from the regular account in the current fiscal year. This includes planning and facilitation by Carol Redfield-Mims, Shanti Elliott, and Agnotti Cowrie of Interplay, as well as \$919.17 for technology including Lyn DeLorme's services as webmaster, Go Daddy hosting our website, and conference registration software.

In addition, \$6,900 was spent in the current fiscal year for youth participation.

Income for the current fiscal year was \$18,717. This included \$15,000 received from Fred Bay in Fall, 2021, and \$3,717 from conference registrations and donations.

### **B. Tax Record Filing**

Daniel reported that I-9 tax forms for 2021 are due tomorrow although this deadline may be extended. Our current balance requires that we complete this form instead of the post card option. Daniel will work with David and an accountant identified by David to file the necessary forms and to set a future pattern for this requirement of 501©3 organizations in Indiana. Daniel said he has been able to secure accountant help pro bono.

### **C. Receipt of Bank Statements**

Daniel, the only one to receive statements from Old National Bank so far, reported that David, John, and Mary will receive statements beginning May 15, 2022. Daniel's name appears in Article 2.1 of the Bylaws as agent and his home address appears as the principal and registered office of the corporation.

### **III. Report on Youth Fellowship Program funded by Vermont Community Foundation**

Daniel, who is in touch with Fred Bay, reported that Fred might be open to making another small grant to the youth program for 2023, possibly \$10,000 for continuing the program up to five years in the future. Sascha said she would pull together a report to be shared with Fred with suggestions from Daniel.

Sascha reported that three youth in Vermont, Mississippi, and Chicago are still working on a project for study of the school to prison pipeline using commonly available statistics that could be compared across regions. This could serve as the basis for a common youth project for next year.

David reported that all youth reported to him had been paid for this year. Shanti reported one youth, M--, is still seeking payment.

### **VI. Cochairs, 2022 Program Report**

Shanti reported on the 2022 Annual Meeting held February 17-19, 2022, by Zoom. This was the 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting to be held by NDSG since its first meeting in 1972. The meeting planning committee of 18 met regularly from November 2021, and then after the meeting for follow-up and evaluation. The meeting theme was "Public Education on Fire: Organizing for Equity, Resistance, and Healing." There were 102 people registered. Extensive documentation of the meeting is presented through videos on the NDSG website.

Results of a meeting evaluation completed by 16 participants were presented. All reported they felt comfortable and welcome at the meeting through community building and transitional activities. They reported having felt well able to process the meeting and connect with others in touchstone groups and having gained new and deeper perspectives on the meeting theme. As highlights of the meeting, they responded: youth leadership, meaningful small group discussion, and intergenerational exchange. Concerns included mission and vision for NDSG,

future of NDSG, putting our vision of equity into practice, support for community action and voice, and NDSG financial stability.

The cochairs propose a shortly upcoming NDSG-wide meeting to address approaches to these concerns in the coming year.

Carol reported on small groups activity in 2021-22. Commitments made at the 2020 annual meeting in Chicago led to formation of several regularly meeting groups. A restorative justice group led by Greta ended in early summer, 2021, and an anti-racist book group stopped meeting in late summer, 2021. In addition to the Annual Meeting Planning group, which met continuously, Carol and Shanti led the Teacher Story Group, which met regularly and is determined to set a regular meeting time. Carol hopes the planned all-call session will explore how we can support schools' becoming more community-centered and that NDSG can apply for grants to assist with implementation.

#### **V. Program Plans for 2022-23**

Shanti said she is ready to pass the baton as a co-chair. She recommended finding people who have the time required and more support for the program leaders. (Shanti has served as co-chair for three years, 2019-2022.)

Sascha expressed continued support for the youth leadership program and willingness to interact with the cochairs about how it can take shape, with a focus on equity. She recommended an application process with the expectation of a leadership team to include a young teacher, an elder, and at least two youths, who would receive stipends, and the expectation of their action as change agents. She thought the application should include a timeline, with dates, and interaction with teams at other sites.

John thanked Carol and Shanti for their leadership of NDSG programs this year. During the last few years, NDSG has had to meet virtually, and this has enabled the meeting of geographically dispersed groups. Also, the participation of youth has changed from representation of their schools to their active leadership. He stated that money is a challenge for program leadership. Also needed is insider knowledge of NDSG. He remembered times NDSG has employed outside meeting planners only to replicate their work because of our commitment to traditions that promote relationships within the group so valued by older members.

Mary observed that early members actively recruited youth as teachers. Today, we are held together as educators, but schools are under stress, and our youth program supports activism, not necessarily within education.

How can we bring these pieces together? Sascha observed need for clarity of vision. What is the impact we want to make on public education? David observed that in his four years as co-chair,

which included two meetings in Jackson, an incredible amount of time was spent on logistics and very little on vision or passion.

John said we must consider what is needed. Although we can continue with our current pattern of expenditures for a few years, we could also spend all for a worthy purpose. The next step here appears to be holding a summer planning meeting that could lead to proposal for a 2023 annual meeting.

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

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be likely be held toward the end of the summer. The anticipated agenda is approval of a program budget for the coming year.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by John at 9:00 p.m. EST.

Mary Harris,  
Secretary