

Board of Directors Meeting

Zoom Videoconference

Thursday, July 8, 2021

Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Board Members Present:

President Adam Sanchez, Vice President Joseph Simmons, Secretary Tasion Kwamilele, Treasurer Luther Aaberge, Patricia Brooks, Robyn Fisher, Chris Kovach, Seth Hubbert, Seth Steward, Sally Swanson, William Wilson, COA President Nathaniel Jones, Laney College Rudy Besikof, Merritt President David Johnson

Absent: BCC President Angelica Garcia, Tamika Greenwood, Dyana Delfin Polk, Mahiri Wise, Eric Wright

Guests: Dr. Melvin Musick, Stephen Currie (EBMUD partner)

Staff: LaNiece Jones, Mashariki White, Brian Bouldin

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by Dr. Joseph Simmons and roll call taken.

Rudy Besikof moved to accept and approve last board meeting minutes. Chris Kovach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Stephen Currie works for EBMUD in the Diversity and Inclusion Office. His office focuses on pulling in diverse people from the communities that EBMUD serves. One of the ways they do that is by creating better career pathways including internships to the community. EBMUD partners with Peralta Colleges Foundation that takes on the fiscal agency to administer intern stipends. Internships include the Ranger, Web Design IT, Environment Management (Merritt College), Electrical Engineer, and Water Recycling summer & fall programs.

Board Secretary Tasion who leads government and public affairs at Schnitzer Steel Industries announced a workforce development partnership with Peralta Community College District that focuses on industry. The partnership will support scholarships, workforce development opportunities for students in the welding and machine technologies department career and employment services. It is a three-year commitment with \$50,000 each year. Tasion's hope is that the program will expand and connect with other departments throughout the district.

Laney President Dr. Besikof advised there is a new Dean of Career Technical Education Alejandria Tomas.

Meeting Agenda Highlights

Officers Reports

President Adam Sanchez provided updates on adhoc task force which includes Luther Aaberge, Rudy Besikof, Robyn Fisher, Tamika Greenwood, Joseph Simmons, and Seth Steward. LaNiece wants the committee to continue to evaluate board engagements and other successful strategies. The goal is to be more aligned with the four colleges and their needs. Adam will present to the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, July 27th and invite their partnership and recommitment to provide an annual grant to the Foundation in support of our basic operations. Dr. Musick worked with the team to help produce the final presentation.

Treasurer Luther Aaberge was unable to participate due to internet connection issues. LaNiece provided recap of 2020-2021 budget and proposed 2021-2022 budget.

Secretary Tasion Kwamilele shared highlights of her interview with potential board member **Louis Quindlen**, who is the former chair of the Laney College Machine Technology Department. Louis has a deep commitment to scholarships and he understands the District challenges and the work that needs to be done. Tasion highly recommended Louis be appointed to the board. Rudy shared that each year at Laney College there is an award given for outstanding employee called the We Rise Award which Louis has received. Per Rudy, Louis has put in his own time, energy and resources to help students.

Adam moved to bring Louis on as a board member. Rudy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Guest Presentation

Consultant Dr. Melvin Musick shared the power point presentation that Adam will present to the Board of Trustees on July 27th.

- Chris Kovach suggested to add a slide on the intended uses of the fund such as full time development director and/or paths forward. Also, on *Financial Support Recap* slide for FY 20-21, under the Details column change to verbiage to “Not Yet Received.”
- Dr. Jones mentioned adding a specific slide asking for an ongoing commitment from the District to ensure that the ask is clear and intentional. Dr. Jones’ second suggestion is to include a slide that indicates where the Foundation may receive other financial resources. Include details in the slide as to how these additional resources will be married with the District’s contribution in order to accomplish a specific set goals and objectives. Add images of student scholarship recipients would also be powerful.
- Seth Steward suggested to highlight the funding level number on the *Financial Support Recap* slide that the District committed to in FY 20-21 but failed to provide, to show that the District still owes the Foundation something. Seth questioned why the fund request amounts go down instead of going up due to inflation. Could we have two students attend the Board of Trustees call to support the Foundation ask.

Committee Reports

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Seth Steward provided Spring 2021 scholarship data: 412 application submitted, 293 scholarship awarded, over \$186,000 was awarded. 81% that received funding are the first in their family to graduate from high school. 60% of those students have an annual income of less than \$20,000 which means the scholarships the Foundation awarded are having a direct impact on their lives. 71% of the students who received funding were female. 21% male and 1% unknown. 31% Asian/Pacific Islander, 22% Black, 19% Latino, 8% multiple, 13% white. New scholarships for the upcoming year include Facebook Community Access Pathway Scholarship, Kapor Good Neighbor Scholarship, Marina Security Services Scholarship, Schnitzer Scholarship, Stephen Corlett Memorial Scholarship and William "Bill" Bell Scholarship.

The Foundation hosted the 2nd annual Thank You Toast event in May for volunteer readers which had 90 registrants and 55 attendees. There were two new donors including a \$5,000 sponsorship.

LaNiece and Seth are in conversation with the self-identified heirs of the Gilmore Scholarship Fund established in 2007 who have made the argument that the Foundation has not met its agreement with regard to who is potentially receiving the scholarship. LaNiece and Seth are working with outside counsel to address the issue. This brings up a broader issue which is whether or not the Foundation can have preferential scholarships based on race/ethnicity etc. which possibly is in violation of Prop 209. This would affect a number of other scholarships we manage. Seth will share more with the board with new development and proposed resolution.

WBR GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Tourney CoChair **Patricia Brooks** is working to confirm additional host committee members to include Greg McConnell, The McConnell Group, Mike Hester, McGuire & Hester, Trustee Linda Handy and John Protappopas.

SPECIAL BOARD PRESENTATION

New Board member Seth Hubbert, Executive Director of Oakland based non-profit Tech Exchange provided background on their work and impact> Tech Exchange's mission is centered on the digital divide issues. It is a 25-year-old organization and they want to ensure that underserved community members have access to the internet, computers at home and have the training and skills support to do what they want with technology. The "Oakland Undivided" initiative was implemented to address the needs created by the pandemic and distance learning for Oakland students.

Executive Director Report:

LaNiece Jones asked on Brian Bouldin to share peer-to-peer board fundraising pages on a new platform called Funraise. Brian presented visuals of the new platform, features, and provided an overview of the process for board members to solicit donations from friends, family and colleagues.

Meeting Adjourned: Adam Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 7:18pm