

Schutz American Schools of Alexandria Foundation (SASAF)

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Conference Call**

January 23, 2021

Call to order

Paul Clark, Board President, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Directors attending the meeting

Caroline Kurtz
Marilyn Watkins
Susan Knight
Jane Hall
Ed Nicholas
Deborah Martin
Bill Pollock
Paul Clark

A quorum of the Board was declared.

Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

The proposed agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the prior meeting were approved.

Communications

Susan Knight shared that she will be stepping down from chairing the Communication Committee no later than July 1, 2021. She will remain on the Board. Paul thanked Sue for all that she has accomplished, especially the web site. Susan said that Karen Ezell has handled the technical aspects with skill and that Jane Hall has done excellent work with the database. Paul will seek a replacement for Sue as Communications Committee Chair.

January 16 ZOOM meeting and future scheduling

Paul shared that the second virtual ZOOM meeting was a success. Over 30 people attended. There were two subgroups with Caroline facilitating one of them. Sue said that the videotape is already on the SASAF web site.

The question was asked if we wanted to continue doing Zoom meetings. Following discussion, it was agreed to have them quarterly and to follow a similar format.

Jane Hall asked how we might draw in younger people.

2021 in-person reunion options and planning

Paul noted that it has been nearly three years since we had an in-person reunion. He said that 80% of the ZOOM meeting participants indicated an interest in holding a reunion this summer. Two options are the Stultz farm in Butler and Houghton College in Western New York, suggested by Bill and Carolyn Pollock. There is no deposit required for either of the sites under consideration so a last-minute cancellation is possible.

After discussion, the Board agreed to host the meeting at Houghton College in New York. Paul thanked Carolyn Pollock for researching and sharing this information. The timing will likely be in early August. Paul will coordinate with Bill and Carolyn on the plans.

As for risk and liability relating to COVID, Steve Jamison noted that once people receive their COVID vaccination, the risks are low. The issue is how people feel about safety and being vaccinated. Each person will need to make an individual decision.

It was suggested that individuals and small groups find time to visit with Jean. Several people offered to drive Jean to the reunion, and Paul noted that it would be more directly on the way for him pick up Jean and return her after the meeting.

2022 North Carolina reunion

The Board discussed rescheduling the beach vacation/reunion on Emerald Isle, North Carolina in 2022 that was originally planned for 2020. Paul noted that planning must begin in the June or July of this year to lock in rental properties.

It was suggested that we might push this to 2023 as two reunions with a nine-month period might be too short an interim, although it was noted that the two formats and locations would likely draw different groups of alumni. The decision on the 2022 reunion was tabled for the time being.

Schutz School request for access to SASAF membership contact information

Michael Schooler, Schutz School Head of School, has asked Paul to share our alumni data base for the purpose of communicating information regarding the upcoming 100th commemoration of Schutz.

Paul asked if we have the authority to do so and noted that we do not want to be inundated with fund-raising solicitations. After discussion, it was determined that an

email would go out so that individuals may opt out having their personal information shared.

Jane noted that we need contact information for recent graduates so maybe we could do an information trade.

Paul will send a response noting the desire for reciprocity, our desire to have news about Schutz, that there will be no solicitation for funds. We have our own challenges with fund raising.

Financial Report

Steve noted that there was no significant change from the report he gave during the most recent ZOOM meeting. He said that we have just under \$10,000 in the accounts about evenly divided between operating costs and the Meloy Scholarship fund.

Annual operating expenses are between \$4,600 and \$4,800. We have approximately one year's operating expenses on hand.

The Meloy Scholarship fund currently has \$4,600, sufficient for three years. Steve said that we owe at least one year's contribution. Paul noted that the School should send us information on the recipients. Paul will follow-up with the School.

2021 fundraising drive

Paul noted that in 2019 we conducted a successful fund-raising campaign and that we should consider repeating the effort this year. The Board would put in a set amount and then ask other alums to match this amount.

It was suggested that we delay this question for now and reconsider mid-year. Caroline Kurtz suggested that December is a good time for fund raising as people tend to be feeling more grateful.

Deb Martin mentioned the auction idea for fund-raising. Paul noted that we have time between now and the reunion to consider other fund-raising options.

Other Business

Dues collection

There was a discussion regarding using PayPal to pay dues and how to motivate people to pay dues. It was determined that a committee of Sue, Steve, Karen and Ed Nicholas would have an off-line discussion. If changes are needed the dues committee will address them and share back with the Board.

Schutz School 100th anniversary commemoration

Paul shared that during the ZOOM meeting 65% of the participants indicated interest in attending the Schutz School 100th anniversary commemoration in Alexandria. He will explore with Michael Schooler what costs Schutz might be able to support and explore the parameters of our group sending a delegation. He said that Tom Bower is heading the Schutz planning committee.

Caroline noted that Paul has been committed to this dream for some time and thanked him for this. Paul will follow-up with Michael Schooler.

Next Meeting of the Board

The next Board meeting will be in April or May.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m. EDT.

Minutes prepared by Marilyn Watkins, Board Secretary