

South Carolina Autism Society

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting

Board of Directors

October 9, 1999

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Denise Long
Denise Chastain
Beverly McCarty
Ken Boggs
Margaret Moore
Joyce Nielsen
Amy Weeks
Mitch Yell
Alex Holbert

Board Members Absent

Shirley Ballard
Margo Cook
David Coats
John Edwards
Gaye Hartley
Melanie Marquis
Denise Oxford
Becky Shippy
Erik Drasgow
Ann Bishop

SCAS Staff Present

Craig Stoxen

Call to order, quorum

President Joyce Nielsen called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. A quorum was declared.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the July 17th minutes were reviewed. Mitch Yell motioned that the minutes of the July meeting be approved, Margaret Moore seconded, motioned carried.

Treasurer's Report-David Coates

Craig Stoxen made the Treasurer's Report in David Coates absence. Craig stated that financial we are where we expected to be at this time. A financial report will be mailed out to all the board members.

Director's Report-Craig Stoxen

Copies of the Director's Report were handed out and addressed each topic:

AIR – The response was great from those who have seen the AIR video. Carol is doing an excellent job and will exceed this years goal. Fifty copies of the video was made, and forty copies have been sold to other states. One was sent to Dennis DeWalt and Audrey Horne. We have asked the ASA to refer any persons or group wishing to purchase a video to

SCAS. We will have the video professionally reproduced by SCETV.

PSP –Parent School Partnership

The four mentors represent Anderson, Cheraw, Charleston, and Columbia and will be working 10 hours per week. Melanie Marquis is working with PSP. Training is in progress and an additional \$100,000.00 will be requested so that five or more mentors can be added to the program.

Advisory Committee Discussion: The committee will consist of two members from the board, two outside parents, Carol (from Don's office), Kathy Fender, and Cindy Nixon. There will be four meetings per year. The need for more part-time clerical assistance was mentioned. Beverly was concerned about how funds were to be spent. The statement was made that SCAS should have the burden of all budget concerns and disclosure of the budget and program progress.

DDSN BUDGET-

DAD- Disability Advocacy Day

This will be one big event, no exact date at this time but around mid-Feb.

LA- Legislative Agenda

Item #2 per Director's Report – new proviso \$100,000 reoccurring to make a total of \$250,000 per year.

Item #3 per Director's Report – address grade progression of children with special needs- Accountability Act.

Item #4 per Director's Report – keeping an eye on movement at the capital before requesting new funds.

Autism Medical Advisory Committee will hold next meeting the last Thursday of this month at DDSN with the major topics of discussion being funding and expenses, planning for more presentations to be instate to increase attendance, listing of long-term goals, and the suggestion of members of UAP being on the committee.

MISCELLANEOUS: -New 800 phone line up and running

-New Board of Directors list generated

-New Listing for Autism Division

-Public Hearing, hosted by DDSN to be held on

October 20, 1999 in the Ashley Room at the

Radisson in North Charleston

-Raffle Fund Raiser: \$2,859.00

President's Report-Joyce Nielsen

Discussion included the following:

Melanie's resignation

E-mail from one of the conference presenters

Progress of our Big 10 items

Adjourning in a timely manner

More use of e-mail

Camp Good Times Concert

It was stated that the Camp Good Times Concert went smoothly and over \$1,200 was made. The concert consisted of 30 bands that volunteered their time. There was a concern about SCAS involvement in events that could potentially have negative connotation to the community. The consensus of the board was as we are not responsible party/sponsor benefiting from the event a problem should not exist. However, we should be aware of the origins of the events in determining using the event as a benefit to the organization. Time of acceptance of a benefit became an issue.

A motion was made by Ken Boggs stating the following:

The SCAS may act as a financial conduit or beneficiary for new events upon the unanimous approval of the President and Executive Director.

If a unanimous decision is not achieved, the decision may be appealed to either the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee or the Board of Directors must approve all new SCAS supported events.

When a request for an event is made, an initial decision must be made within **3 working days**.

If an appeal is required, the Executive Committee/Board of Directors must meet within **4 working days** to address the appeal.

The motion was seconded by Mitch Yell; moved by the board.

Committee Reports

Conference- Everything going smoothly

- Mailing going out to schools
- Adam's Mark Hotel, November 18-20
- Introduction Sign-up given to Board
- Vicki will be in attendance for registration
- Registration format is different
different color ribbon in folder for identification
- Awards forms due October 30
- DDSN will be making award presentation

Motion made to adjourn for lunch by Denise Chastain; seconded by Amy Weeks.

Meeting reconvened at 2:05 PM

Monitoring- Handout given

Legislative Report- Covered in Director's Report

Fundraising- Golf Tournament scheduled for May 20, 2000
at the same location with the same setup.
- Silent auction items are still needed.

Membership- Denise Long spoke on membership drive project per region, and asked each board member to charge support groups to encourage their members to join. Membership drive at the table along with the bookstore and registration table, and address the old members about renewal and new members to join.

Nominating- Called attention to the Board of Directors list.

- Error found with year
- 1 Vacancy (2000-2003) to be filled by William Floyd, lawyer and parent of an autistic son from Irmo.
- 1 person needed for Melaine Marquis' position
- Contact to be made with Margo Cook to address attendance and interest.
- Appointment of Regional Reps as needed
- Alex Holbert, Eric Drasgow, and William Floyd need to be put on the slate along with officers.
- If any other resignations arise, nominations will be taken from the floor.

Personnel- Committee will be working on Craig's job description and will be discussed at next board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

501(c)3: Discussion included the need for the 501(c)3, professional assistance in structuring, and creation of a search committee to for this assistance.

Motion was made by Beverly McCarty to have a committee Established to actively pursue and retain an attorney to assist SCAS to obtain a separate 501(c)3. This committee will be authorized to spend SCAS resources not to exceed \$2,500.00
Seconded by Ken Boggs.

The committee members are: David Coates, William Floyd, Amy Weeks, Joyce Nielsen, and Ken Boggs.

WebPage Update:

Denise Chastain made her report to plan to have the SCAS webpage in place by the annual conference. Once the page is up, it will be e-mailed for Board approval. Goal is to have it available to be seen at the conference.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Dates: - All Board Meetings will be held in Columbia.
January 22, April 29, July 22, October 14
- Board Retreat either March 18 or 25 in Charleston or Columbia
- Golf Tournament May 20 Myrtle Beach

Education:

Erik Drasgow and Mitch Yell have developed a Masters Degree Program and setting up a model program for children with autism. They are requesting a letter of recommendation from SCAS and DDSN for both programs.

South Carolina was pushing autism certification that has now fallen back to non-categorical. The suggestion was made to draft a letter of opposition to Inez Tennenbaum of this action.

Public Relations:

Jan will be making a Parent School Partnership presentation to the SC Board of Education.

An article about AIR was printed in the Orangeburg paper. The article was complementary but some incorrect

information was printed. The suggestion was made to create a committee to develop a media policy/data sheet. After development, a draft needs to be e-mailed to all board members for approval.

New Board Business:

The suggestion was made to purchase a conference tape recorder to assist the secretary. Tape accessibility was addressed along with abuse and consequences. The secretary will be asked her opinion of the necessity of a tape recorder.

Craig's evaluation is fast approaching. The suggestion was made to follow the same format as last year. The president stated that she will create the form.

SCAS has gone to the payroll system with direct deposit only as a safeguard so that the Executive Director can not increase salary. The treasurer has to sign on the Executive Director's increase in pay.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Beverly McCarty, seconded by Amy Weeks, and moved by the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise R. Long, Acting Secretary