

## SOTA II, Inc. Board Minutes

Held ONLINE, August 19, 2020 @ 5:00 pm

### **Roll Call (all members are present unless otherwise noted)**

Officers (voting members) - Deborah-Eve Lombard (Chair), Dillion McArdle (Secretary), District-Wide Parent Rep (vacant) , Treasurer (vacant)

Principal - Melissa Murray

Faculty Member (voting member) - Josh Wolcott

Members At Large John VonRuden (Parent Rep) , Linda Levison (absent)

Guests and parents: Elizabeth Digby-Britten

Meeting called to order by D. Lombard at 5:05 pm. Quorum requirement was met.

J. VonRuden volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Review of minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting was tabled to the September meeting.

### **Secretary, Treasurer and District Wide Parent Rep. Reports**

none

Dillion shared news that Xcel Energy had donated \$500.00 to SOTA II towards purchase of a classroom set of Apple pencils. Dillion was unaware of any reporting requirements for the gift. Xcel was wondering if SOTA II Inc. had the ability to accept electronic donations through a Venmo or PayPal account. At this time the answer is no but this is something the group should consider moving forward. For now, Xcel will need to send a check to the Lincoln School Building.

With the \$500 donation from Xcel Energy, that leaves a \$2500 short of the goal for the Apple pencil purchase. Dillion is a member of the LaCrosse Downtown Rotary Club. He will approach the group for a possible donation. Elizabeth suggested that Lions and Kiwanis Clubs may be other good possibilities.

Melissa suggested that another item the board should consider is the mailing address for SOTA II Inc. Currently the address for SOTA II Inc is Lincoln Building address @ 510 S. 9th Street. This address was used for all the incorporation and 501(c) (3) paper work. It would be beneficial for the organization to have it's own address with a P.O. box in the future.

### **Action items:**

- Research electronic ability to accept donations. John volunteered for this task.
  - PayPal, Venmo.
- Look into establishing a P.O. Box for SOTA II Inc.. Item was tabled for now.

### **Principal's Report**

At last count, between 60-65 students (from all grade levels 6th, 7th & 8th) from the building (Lincoln, SOTA II & Coulee Montessori) have signed up for the Coulee Region Virtual Academy (CRVA). These students will be accommodated by teachers that had volunteered to teach the CRVA students from the Lincoln building staff. So in a sense the Lincoln building now has a third charter school.

SOTA II teacher Josh Wolcott had volunteered to teach in the CRVA and was selected for a position. That means SOTA II has an open position. Melissa was not planning on filling this position, at this time, to wait and see what

happens this year.

Josh volunteered to continue as the teacher representative on the SOTA II Inc. board.

SOTA II for the 2020-2021 school year has 22-24 students signed up. Erin Schmuck will teach SOTA II 6th, 7th and 8th grade students this year. She will share Math teaching responsibilities with Coulee Montessori staff and will have a full time student teacher.

### **Specific Business**

SOTA II Inc. has two vacant executive board member positions for the 2020/2021 school year. These positions are the Treasurer and the District-Wide Parent Rep. John VonRuden had expressed interest in filling the Treasurer position and Elizabeth Digby-Britten had expressed interest in the District-Wide Parent Rep. position.

Dillion McArdle nominated John VonRuden for the Treasurer position. Seconded by Josh Wolcott. No discussion. Motion carried.

Dillion McArdle nominated Elizabeth Digby-Britten for District-Wide Parent Rep position. Seconded by Josh Wolcott. No discussion. Motion carried.

The board has a goal of increasing membership and participation in SOTA II Inc. Currently there are two vacant at-large positions available. Would like to reach out to the other parents to see if anyone is interested in filling those positions as a Parent Rep. We should also identify other opportunities to participate on specific project work groups or tasks that would not require a board member commitment.

The first thing that the board needs to do is to define the duties of the Parent Rep position so those can be communicated to the other parents. Also, we need to check the by-laws and the definitions for the other roles and responsibilities to make sure they are clearly spelled out.

#### **Action Item:**

- Deborah-Eve volunteered to draft a document in google doc on the duties of Parent Rep. Some elements ideas discussed were:
  - Provide the board a parents perspective on items discussed.
  - Willing to share ideas and provide input.
  - Willing to work collectively in a group
  - Would like a mix of grade levels if possible.
  - Willing to utilize any specific skill set that the individual possesses to support the group's efforts.
- All - look at the by-laws. Are the Roles and Responsibilities for each position well defined.
- All - brainstorm projects and tasks that are needed to support the group.

To promote the sense of community the board would like to host a digital event to celebrate the upcoming school year. Some ideas presented included a zoom picnic or open house. Another suggestion was possibly to include a local food truck. Deborah-Eve, Josh, and Elizabeth volunteered to plan the event. Stay tuned for more information.

The schedule for board meetings for the upcoming school year was discussed. The consensus from the group was to stay with the 3rd Wednesday of the month @ 5pm. Meetings will continue to be virtual until further notice.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by McArdle second by Wolcott

**Next SOTA II Inc. Board Meeting Schedule:**

Wednesday September 16, 2020 from 5:00pm - 6:00 pm

Documents: *(Included with Meeting Agenda for review but were not specifically discussed.*

1. [SOTA II Inc., ByLaws](#)
2. [SOTA Articles of Incorporation](#)
3. [SOTA II, Inc., EIN #](#)
4. [SOTA II teacher wish list](#)

**SOTA II, Inc. Purpose**

SOTA II, Inc. is the governing body of SOTA II. The purpose of SOTA II, Inc. is to ensure that the needs of the students are being met, the voices of parents are heard, and the shared Vision and Constructs of SOTA II, as defined in the SOTA II Charter School Contract, are maintained and supported. SOTA II, Inc. will act as liaison between SOTA II and the School District of La Crosse Board of Education.