

## SOTA II, Inc. Board Minutes

Held ONLINE, June 17, 2020 @ 5:00 pm

Documents: *(Included with Meeting Agenda for review. The only document reviewed during the meeting was #4. SOTA II teacher wish list )*

1. [SOTA II Inc., ByLaws](#)
2. [SOTA Articles of Incorporation](#) filed 05/01/2020 (Thank you John!)
3. [SOTA II, Inc., EIN #](#)
4. [SOTA II teacher wish list](#)

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

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

Principal - Melissa Murray

Faculty Member (voting member) - Josh Wolcott

Members At Large John VonRuden, Linda Levison

Guests and parents: Elizabeth Digby-Britten and Diane Beranek

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

J. VonRuden volunteered to take meeting minutes with the help of D. Lombard.

D. Lombard asked for a motion to approve the 5-14-2020 meeting minutes that were included as part of the agenda. Kyle Backstrand made the motion. Joshua Wolcott second. Motion carried 3-0.

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

none

### **Principal's Report**

The School District of LaCrosse is starting to look at the budget picture for the 2020-2021 school year. Prior to the situation with COVID-19, the District was forecasting a \$200/child increase in the second year of the budget. Post COVID-19, that number has been adjusted to \$0 to \$50/child.

Planning is underway at the District level to hold classes in the Lincoln building in the Fall of 2020. This is assuming that the LaCrosse County COVID Threat level is Orange or lower. This will consist of a combination of face to face instruction with on-line learning. Class sizes will be reduced to 18 people including the teacher. Buses will go from 70 students per bus to 20. Students will be provided new or cleaned masks daily (500 / day, 400 students and 100 building staff).

In a LaCrosse School District survey about the upcoming school year, 15 % of families said they would not send their children back to school until the COVID-19 threat level was green or there was a vaccine. To address this the School District of LaCrosse has joined other area School Districts (Onalaska and Holmen) to create the Coulee Virtual Academy. What would this mean for SOTA II as far as enrollment? Can we provide an option to SOTA II families with 100% virtual learning so they can stay connected to the program while exercising their choice to keep children at home through the pandemic.

SOTA II teachers have submitted their budget requests for the 2020 - 2021 school year to Principal Murray. Due

to the new budget forecast, it is uncertain how much of those requests can be accommodated. This is an opportunity where SOTA II Inc. can provide support through fundraising and grant writing to provide funding to make up the shortfall.

A primary expense is the busing for the Fall Production in Oct/Nov. The Fall Production is put on by SOTA II students and teachers and performed at each of the Elementary Schools within the district. This production is used as a recruiting tool for and provides exposure to the SOTA II program.

Item on the Teacher wish list is an Apple pencil for each student (40-45 pencils) and teachers (3). Cost ranges from \$2,500 - \$5000. An alternative product called "Crayons" which is approximately ½ the price. Wolcott to investigate options and get pricing.

Other Items that may need to be funded include:

- Professional Development Time for Josh and Erin
- Busing costs
- Traditional and Virtual Field Trips
- Teacher wish list items (see attachment)
- Back to School items

SOTA II Inc to develop a prioritized list of needs for the school and determine the cost. List should also include a description of each item, why it is needed and how it can help the school/students.

La Crosse Community Foundation - July 15 deadline. Recipients announced in August. \$7500 max  
La Crosse School District Public Education Foundation - \$2,000 to \$3,000.

D. Lombard would like to pull information together that could be used to submit grant applications. Information would be stored in one location and used as a base for all grant application submittals. Need to work with Josh and Erin to compile this information.

### **Specific Business**

Discussion of the bank account for the new SOTA II, Inc. A bank that has standing in the community for working with students/children would be the preference of the governance board. There is a \$275 anonymous donation made to cover the cost of the incorporation fees and a \$100 donation that was presented to Erin Schmuck, teacher. Those deposits are ready as soon as the account is established. John VonRuden will be reimbursed for paying the \$275.00 filing for incorporation fee.

Need to determine a Communications/GmailVideo meetings platform for SOTA II Inc. Board meetings moving forward. D. Lombard to investigate options. Since SOTA Inc. isn't technically a school, not sure if it can piggyback on the LaCrosse School District account for ZOOM. Principal Murray to check if SOTA II Inc. can get access through the school account. May need to look for other solutions.

Open positions going into the 20-21 school year include: District-Wide Parent Rep, Secretary and Treasurer positions. Last board meeting, the combined Secretary/Treasurer position was split into two individual positions. D. McArdle's preference for the 20 - 21 school year is to transition to an At Large member of the board. Elizabeth Digby-Britten has expressed interest in the open District-Wide Parent Rep and John VonRuden has expressed interest in either of the Secretary or Treasurer positions.

SOTA II Inc needs to get officers in place and bylaws updated during the summer so it can be ready to address

the challenges that the fall school year will bring.

Lombard and Wolcott to work on a letter to current and new families of SOTA II students giving them an update on SOTA II Inc and the opportunity to get involved in the board.

#### SOTA II Community Picnic

The picnic was a success last year and it was decided to continue for the 20-21 school year. In light of the current covid-19 situation, not sure what this event would look like for the fall semester. For now keeping Friday, September 4th, and Friday, September 11th on the calendar as possibilities. If we plan an outdoor event we should have a rain date. As for the rest, we will wait and see what the school district plans for Fall.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting by McArdle second by Wolcott

#### **Future SET Meeting Schedule:**

Summer board meeting scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Next regular schedule meeting August 19.

#### **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.