

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

**Draft of DSASO Board Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2005**

Board Members Present: Gary Rogers, Jackie Smedegaard, Deb Evans, Ron Schaaf, Rick Wise, Vicki Stelle-Graham, Lauri Eisenhaur, Maria Thorpe, Jeffrey and Debbie Bernard. Others in attendance: Josh Hansen, Brandon Bernard, Sean Smedegaard, Anjay Meyer, Joyce and Ariel Rogers.

Board Meeting commenced at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes were read individually. Gary moved that the minutes be accepted as submitted. Rick Wise seconded the motion. April 19th minutes were approved.

Treasurerís Report: Jackie presented the treasurerís report for April as well as a break down on the Jim MacDonald Workshop so far. All the receipts are not in and paid for yet. Ron reported that Cindy and Peter Trueblood had donated the proceeds of the sale of their travel trailer. The trailer sold recently and \$3700 was deposited into the savings account. Joyce will send an acknowledgement letter and a thank you to the Truebloods. The board is very appreciative of their generous donation!

Jim MacDonald Workshop: Ron thanked all the board members and others who put in a lot of time to make bringing Jim MacDonald here on May 6th and 7th a huge success! We had 75 parents, teachers and Speech Language Pathologists attend on Friday and 55 attend on Saturday. 37 people turned in evaluations and overwhelmingly the feedback was very positive. Mostly things went without a hitch. We did have trouble with our main mailing not reaching many people locally and some of the first class mailing being returned. (Anjay never did get a flyer). Joyce will look into that with the post office. Joyce felt Jim was very good, but at times a little abrasive. Others commented favorably. All told, we felt it was very worthwhile and a unique event for DSASO bringing together this mix of folks including a strong representation of parents of kids with Autism, DS and other differing abilities.

Reading Program: Joyce reported that she is working with 8 students currently. 2 have postponed until the 2nd set of sessions. The kids are in their 3rd week of direct instruction from Joyce and all doing well. Joyce has met with most of the teachers or SLPs of each student. She and Lauri came up with the idea of sending out a survey to previous reading program students to ask how DSASO can continue to support their reading efforts. Joyce will finish the survey and send out. This new group of students will receive 1 set of 6-week sessions with direct teaching by Joyce and team members watching. The Second set of 6 weeks will be with the team and Joyce working together to create lesson plans and the 3rd set of 6 weeks will be Joyce supporting the team to provide the instruction in her presence to prepare the teams to go on their own after that. Joyce reported that one girl had not received much reading instruction and was more than ready. She has taken off in 3 weeks learning the entire alphabet and many words. It is a reminder that students vary and require an individual program to meet those specific needs and that many children would benefit from specific one-on-one instruction.

Fundraising Ideas:

Food for Less ñ Reading Program Books have brought in \$58. Unfortunately they were being sold at the same time the March of Dimes was selling Shamrocks. We will see about doing it for a

while longer and possible at other stores.

Speedway ñ Mariaís sister, Michelle has again set up a time on June 14th for DSASO to sell 50-50 tickets and take home Ω the pot. Joyce and Gary need volunteers to help out in 2 hour shifts from 4:00 PM till Midnight. We may try and get businesses to donate some smaller items to also raffle through the night and try to generate more ticket sales.

Ashland Food Cooperative Community Grant: DSASO Reading Program received a \$1000 community grant from AFC to help pay for the reading binders and reading books for a lending library. The board sincerely thanks ACF for their generous award and Joyce will attend the dinner this Thursday night to receive the money.

Car Wash? We will check into maybe providing another car wash sometime this summer, probable Medford this time. Gary suggested a visible place, ask for donations and donít presale tickets.

Golf Tournament Fundraiser: Gary and Vicki both shared their experiences with being in and putting on a golf fundraiser. Gary will spear head finding out more information and bring to the board. All were interested in learning more.

Cast for Kids: Joyce just completed the flyer for Cast for Kids which will be held on August 20th this summer. All are encouraged to sign up early.

Wal-Mart: Joyce and April have sent in the paperwork to apply for reading program funding from Wal-mart. Joyce checked in with them recently and learned they have not made final decisions yet.

Office Manager Position: Joyce reported that April would be interested in continuing to work for DSASO. She requested that she not start back up before June 13th and would like a minimum of hours. Another option would be to just do the Newsletter. The board agreed to offer to pay April \$8.50 on payroll (which is the equivalent of her \$10/hour contract) and her hours would be a minimum of 20 hours per month and a maximum of 40 hours per month. Our preference is for April to work on a variety of needed projects to help Joyce. Joyce will contact April.

Railroad Picnic: Discussed plans for this Saturdayís annual spring Picnic at the Railroad park. Ron and Gary will each bring BBQ grills. Event will be a potluck. DSASO will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns and condiments. Deb will bring 3 gallons of water and lemonade. Maria will help coordinate macaroni necklaces. Debbie B. will bring face paints. All were asked to bring blankets and those who can chairs and tables.

Upstarts: Lauri reported a small turnout for the spaghetti supper. It was suggested we try to have mixed age outside events for the summer months. Also the idea of having specific program topics such as transition for CDS to Kindergarten: looking ahead. Decided to have a come play and ask questions at CP Elementary on July 9th or 16th and look into providing some childcare so parents can talk. Will have question and answer opportunity for those wishing to learn more about older familiesí school experiences.

Board member: Gary moved that Anjay Meyer be put on the DSASO Board to serve for a one year term. Maria seconded. All were in favor. Welcome Anjay!

Election of Officers: Deb moved that Jackie continue to serve as Treasurer. Maria seconded. All were in favor. Maria moved that Gary serve as President and Ron seconded. All voted in favor. Ron moved that Maria to serve as secretary. Gary seconded. All were in favor. Maria moved that Rick Wise be Vice President. Ron seconded and all voted in favor. The new DSASO officers serving a one-year term are: President ñ Gary Rogers; Vice President ñ Rick Wise; Secretary ñ Maria Thorpe and Treasurer ñ Jackie Smedegaard.

NDSC Convention: Board discussed plans to attend convention in Anaheim July 29-31. Lauri has booked rooms. 7 families have signed up to attend. Each should switch motel rooms to their own names. Each family will pay their own way and bring back receipts. DSASO will reimburse each family \$100/family member who attends up to \$400/family.

Budget: Deb submitted final budget for approval. Budget was approved as submitted. See attached below.

Pam Marsh: Deb brought up again the possibility of Pam Marsh doing some work for DSASO. Pam has taken on another job but may still have a limited amount of time to devote to DSASO projects. Deb and Ron briefly mentioned some of the ideas they proposed to Pam to consider. The full ideas are attached separately.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35

Minutes submitted by Deb Evans