

# Red Cedar Environmental Institute

## Regular Monthly Board Meeting 7/26/12

Meeting called to order at 1820

Present: Sheryl Claflin (SC), Dale Hanson (DH), Mike Steiner (MS), Andrea Beach (AB), Ashley Steinke (AS), Holly Estreen, teacher. Not present: Joe Bognar, Ricks Jacob.

1. Approve previous Board Minutes- None available.
2. Public Comments- none
3. Approve Agenda- SC/AC- All in favor.
4. New teacher introduction- Holly Estreen makes introduction of self to Board Members.
5. Financial- Bank account balance reported. Goal of fundraising is to enhance/enable outreach projects for students if regular budget does not allow in light of addition of new teacher. vs enrollment ratio. New fundraising ideas discussed. AS will explore partnering with Lake Association for annual event. Harvest Fest 9/8/2012- JB setting up a committee to plan events for this including- 1. Run/Walk (morning) 2. Canoe Race (afternoon). "Race for the Environment" was proposed name for run/walk. SC will research time chips. Lake Protection Association will have a display at the Pavilion. MS recommends Apple Pies again. For future Harvest Fest MS plans to have students do planning the Spring before.
6. Enrollment- Current enrollment is 25. #5 are 8th graders, #11 are 7th graders, #9 are 6th graders. Recruitment is priority. This is actually a good time to recruit as kids are gearing up for school. New open enrollment guidelines reviewed as well as extensive discussion of cooperative agreements. We need other schools to know about us and help get the word out that RCEI exists and is a option for students. MS anticipates he will have more time to promote RCEI with the addition of new teacher.
7. Facilities- Current room assignment is the same as last year for a total of #2 classrooms. Furniture is on order and will need to be stored. Storage is an ongoing issue. RCEI needs to reserve some space in new storage space. Ice Age Center land/building acquisition discussed. MS plans for field work out there on a regular basis.
8. Marketing/Fundraising- a. Website- this needs to be further developed. b. Back to school newspaper article- to promote RCEI. This will come out in the Chetek Alert 8/15/12. c. Back to school meeting- For prospective new students is proposed for 8/20/12. School starts 9/4/12. d. Radio Ads- This have been successful in the past and reach a lot of people. Holly suggests we have people "Like" us on Facebook Perhaps we can get a business to donate some prizes for a goal # "Likes". e. Facebook Ads- Very reasonable in cost. MS suggests we utilize this again. Additional Marketing suggestions include student to student presentations.
9. Training- a. Project Foundry workshop- Teachers will be utilizing this program this year to document progress and meeting standards. b. Methods for Description of Vegetation class- MS just attended this and found it very beneficial. School forest has been recently harvested for ball park revisions and RCEI will restore with prairie grasses utilizing techniques MS

learned at this class. c. "No Teacher Left Inside Project Based Learning"- Teachers will attend this prior to school start.

10. School Updates- a. Shoreline restoration project- Permit application to be turned in shortly and plan for this to be ready to go for school year. MS feels this will be good publicity for RCEI. Groundbreaking with media discussed. Project details discussed. b. Year 1 video- MS has been putting together this video with photos from the last year. c. Year-end survey- Discussion regarding content/questions. Plan for video to go out with the survey.

11. Other items: Meeting with Al Brown. Asking RCEI Board to focus on better communication practices. There are some parents that have expressed some issues/concerns regarding teacher/parent communication. This is crucial to maintaining enrollment and student success.

Next Meeting 8/21/12

Meeting closed at 2012