BEAVER COUNTY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 16, 2025

Trustees present:Michael Jones, Lincoln Kretchmar, Joe Rubino, Dave Wytiaz, Dan Donnelly, Roger Davis, Roberta Good, Yvonne Connor. Executive Director, Jamie Connelly.

Trustees Absent: Joe Guarino, Beth Dewhurst, Christine Kroger.

President, Joe Rubino called the meeting to order at 11:49am.

**Procedural Actions:**

Minutes from the February 14, 2025 meeting were presented for approval. Motion to accept the minutes made by Yvonne Connor, seconded by Lincoln Kretchmar. Motion carried.

The treasurer’s report was presented for approval. There was a brief discussion regarding the investment account and new account manager. The organization currently has a slight loss, with investment revenues affected by poor stock market performance (approximately 10% loss). There was discussion about whether the investment manager had moved funds to cash as previously instructed, with Roger suggesting they should have a meeting with him at the next board meeting due to market volatility.

Motion to accept the report was made by Roger Davis, seconded by Yvonne Connor. Motion carried. Additionally, Lincoln Kretchmar noted the need to reduce the book inventory being held by LLS. Several outlets for book inventory were discussed including BF food pantry, Big Brothers Big Sisters, BF Christmas dinner, Beaver Tales and Light-up night in Beaver.

**Committee Reports:**

Executive Committee – Jamie Connelly indicated that Philadelphia insurance premium is due. Lincoln Kretchmar made a motion to pay the premium which was seconded by Mike Jones and was approved.

Marketing Committee – Lincoln Kretchmar discussed the Veregy Golf outing, which was unfortunately canceled due to lack of interest, with only one foursome signing up. Despite the cancellation, we expect to receive some donation from sponsorships already collected but may have to be split with the other charity.

Jamie reported on Teacher Appreciation Week initiatives, including distributing candy boxes with the organization's logo to school districts. The boxes will include information about mini-grants and the Education Hall of Fame. Board members volunteered to deliver these to various schools on Monday and Tuesday of the following week.

Joe Rubino provided an update on the Education Hall of Fame event, describing it as a wonderful evening with excellent inductees. The dinner at Seven Oaks was well-received, with more sponsors than the previous year. Jamie estimated they would make approximately $13,000 from the event, slightly more than last year, despite higher expenses for items like the step-and-repeat banner and promotional materials.

Audit Committee - Roger Davis reported on the audit committee, noting that the 990 tax form was submitted on May 15, though the review was not yet complete. Dave Wytiaz made a motion to accept the 990 and seconded by Mike Jones. The board approved the 990 submission and will approve the review once it is received.

Nominating Committee – Yvonne Connor welcomed new board member Roberta, who comes from a strong educational background as a former principal in the Hampton School District. The committee is still seeking additional board members.

**New Business**

The board discussed upcoming events including the Leaders Conference on June 12 at BVIU, which the Trust is co-sponsoring. Roger will be speaking at this event. Other upcoming events include the United Way Gala on June 25, the Midland 4th of July parade (in which BCET will not participate), and CCBC Community Day on July 19.

An issue was raised regarding a teacher who received a grant but was having difficulty getting reimbursed for sales tax by her school district. The board discussed potential solutions, including possibly reimbursing the $60 tax amount directly, but decided to first contact the school's business office to understand their process without mentioning the teacher's name.

Roger provided an extensive update on regional economic development initiatives, including the Build Back Better grant that awarded CCBC $1.7 million for STEM education. He discussed Mitsubishi's plans to build an energy facility in Big Beaver and how Pittsburgh has become a federally designated energy hub. Roger also detailed the progress of Flourish Beaver County, an organization working to improve schools and address population decline in the county. He highlighted the leadership of Jennifer Moreno, the CEO who has secured funding from county commissioners and private donors. The organization has three subcommittees focusing on mental health, academic readiness, and career exploration. Roger noted that with 14 school districts in the county, some with as few as 40 graduating seniors, consolidation may eventually be necessary, though it must happen organically.

**Upcoming meeting dates:**

## Executive Committee Board of Trustees

## June 5, 2025 (Thursday) August 15, 2025 (Friday)

## 10:00 am - Zoom 11:45 am – Wooden Angel

**Adjournment of Business Meeting** – Lincoln Kretchmar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was second by Yvonne and passed.

**Action Items**

Roger suggested having a meeting with the investment manager at the next board meeting. ‎‎

Jamie to organize distribution of books stored at Lincoln Park. ‎‎

Jamie to send spreadsheet of school addresses to board members for candy delivery. ‎‎

Jamie to coordinate candy drop-off to board members on Monday morning or Sunday. ‎‎

Board members to email Jamie with shirt size if they want an organization shirt. ‎‎

Jamie to follow up with the teacher having grant reimbursement issues and contact the school's business office about their process. ‎‎

Add disclaimer to future grant communications about checking school district purchasing procedures. ‎‎

Consider inviting Jennifer Moreno from Flourish Beaver County to speak at a future meeting. ‎‎