

**MINUTES**  
**FAEDS Board Meeting**  
**Florida Educational Technology Conference**  
**March 21, 2006**  
**2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**Rosen Center Hotel**

**In Attendance:**

John Opper	Marsha Cole	Victor Ferreros
George Vensel	David Jasa	Kate Wasson
Ed Bernard	Bill White	Annie Zhang
Candy Garica	Bill Piotrowski	

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 PM. JOpper welcomed new Board member Ed Bernard, Director of Student Operations for Miami-Dade County Schools.

**Approval of 1/16/06 Board Meeting Minutes**

DJasa moved approval of the Minutes from the 1/16/06 Board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

**President's Report**

JOpper reminded the Board that MindLeaders courses are being offered to FAEDS members at no cost. BWhite expressed concern that members would be unable to take advantage of this benefit if they did not know their membership numbers. MCole inquired whether MindLeaders would be able to provide the FAEDS membership numbers as part of a "lost password" function. JOpper suggested the Board distribute membership and benefit information to the members via a mass e-mailing. He and CGarcia offered

**Sunshine Connections**

BPiotrowski reported on the progress of the Sunshine Connection initiative. Microsoft is currently working on the project, which plans to provide FCAT results and resources to teachers, as well as statewide IEP AIP online. He informed the Board that additional information was available on the Sunshine Connection website.

**Treasurer's Report**

GVensel informed the Board a \$300 refund had been received on the insurance premium, and he had received the application for the fall conference insurance. He distributed the proposed budget and balance sheets for the Boards review.

GVensel reported vendor fees for last year's conference totaling close to \$5,000 were still due from Oracle and Dell. MCole questioned how such situations would be handled this

year. AZhang advised her all vendors would be required to pre-pay for their sponsorships. No vendor will be allowed to participate in the 2006 Conference until their payments have been received.

BPiotrowski requested \$2,000 be added to the budget for FAEDS-sponsored pre-sessions to be held next year at FETC. Jopper agreed it would be a good idea, and believed FETC would be receptive. BPiotrowski offered to propose the idea to FETC at the end of this year's conference. BWhite questioned if fees collected for the pre-sessions would cover the costs. BPiotrowski informed him they should. BWhite suggested the amount be reduced to \$1500 and placed under "workshops" on the budget.

DJasa questioned if the \$300 budgeted for web support would be adequate. Jopper noted the line item was not used at all in the previous year. AZhang informed the Board that beginning this year, FAEDS would be accepting credit cards on the website, and as such would need to acquire a \$995 SSL certificate. She suggested the item be increased to \$1000.

GVensel amended the budget to include \$1500 for workshops and \$1000 for web support. BPiotrowski moved approval of the budget as amended. The motion was seconded by BWhite and passed without objection.

### **Historian**

BPiotrowski proposed all FAEDS history items be consolidated through the website via Sharepoint. He informed the Board that Microsoft had offered to design a Sharepoint system for DOE and had extended the offer to FAEDS. DJasa offered to act as the contact between FAEDS and Microsoft for the project. NWRDC will continue to host the website. DJasa asked if a Sharepoint server was currently running at NWRDC. VFerreros informed him it was.

### **Scholarship**

MCole reported on the status of the scholarship application evaluations. She informed the Board 22 qualifying applications had been received for the William J. English Scholarship, 4 qualifying applications had been received for the SIMS Scholarship, and 1 qualifying application had been received for the Teacher Scholarship. The sole Teacher Scholarship applicant was the same individual who had been awarded the Teacher Scholarship in 2005. Noting there was no rule specifically prohibiting anyone previously awarded a scholarship from applying for it again, she asked the Board if they wished to implement such a measure in the future. BPiotrowski responded he did not, as he felt the Board should be encouraging applicants, not restricting them. The Board agreed.

BPiotrowski questioned why the application numbers are typically so low. MCole informed him it was likely due to the fact that few people are aware of the scholarships. It has been historically difficult to reach the right audience when promoting the scholarships. BPiotrowski suggested placing an advertisement in *Next* magazine. Jopper informed him the ad rates were typically expensive, but he would check with the editor to see if they would be willing to reduce the rates for FAEDS. He explained that Distance

Learning had advertised in *Next* two years ago, and had collected a database of e-mail addresses from young people who were interested in technology. Although the data was two years old, many of the addresses were from children who would now be either juniors or seniors in high school. He suggested the Board e-mail that group. He also offered to check into DOE's paperless distribution network to see if the Board would be able to leverage that. MCole thanked the Board for their suggestions. She informed the members she would provide them with fliers and send an e-mail to compile a list of potential contacts.

The Board reviewed the proposed Technical Scholarship. DJasa suggested the language be amended to specify the scholarship will be awarded to a Florida K-20 IT Professional. The Board agreed. MCole suggested the essay requirement be reduced to one page. The Board agreed. BPiotrowski and JOpper asked that the language specify that the \$2000 was a maximum amount, with the total award consisting only of the cost for one class registration and accompanying exam fee. The Board agreed. JOpper suggested the scholarship be called the "Professional Advancement Scholarship". MCole agreed and offered to e-mail the Board a new version of the proposal which incorporated all suggestions.

### **Website**

BWhite recommended FAEDS history items be added to the website via Sharepoint as discussed earlier. DJasa suggested the website's current content be corrected and updated prior to any major additions.

### **Bylaws**

JOpper reported on the upcoming Board elections. The terms of BHacker, GVensel, CGarcia and JOpper are all expiring. However, the Board agreed that JOpper should remain on the Board one additional year to serve as Past President, as he has had to serve as President again this year due to the previous president's resignation. As Election Chair duties fall to the Past President, JOpper volunteered to solicit nominations for membership and handle all Election Chair duties.

### **Membership**

JOpper reported CGarcia would be taking over as Membership Chair. Noting the current \$10 membership fee, BPiotrowski questioned whether the Board should be charging more for membership. He suggested the fee be increased, and the benefits of membership be highlighted on the website. MCole agreed, but recommended the increase in membership fees be postponed until the following year. JOpper agreed and asked the Board to consider this issue again next year.

### **Conference 2006 Update**

VFerreros updated the Board on the status of the 2006 FAEDS Conference. A "Premier" level sponsorship of \$6000 has been added this year, and IBM has already committed to one of these sponsorships. VFerreros encouraged everyone to contact vendors and ask them to participate as sponsors.

AZhang reported the Conference agenda had been organized into three tracks this year: Policy, Technical and Instructional. Session topics were still needed for all three tracks. She asked the Board to send any suggested topics to her as soon as possible.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.