

Board Meeting Minutes
A Better Chance of Wilton, Inc.
January 10, 2012

Present: Adrienne Ready, John Klein, David Smith, Elizabeth McGroarty, Eydie Sum, Gary Cott, Gayle Herndon, Genia Meinhold, Jane Lee, Karen Legan, Keith Shoemaker, Kristen Leddy, Laurie Crimmins, Louise Shames, Lynne Vanderslice, Mark Carta, Mark Logan, Marylynn Clune, Mike McGroarty, Nancy Toll

Absent: Barbara Lyons, Betsy Bell, George Davala, Lisa Galiano-Kratz, Sheri Richards, Steve Reedy

President Nancy Toll called the meeting to order at 7:37pm.

Approval of Minutes - Upon welcoming the Board of Directors, Nancy Toll asked that the minutes from the November 8, 2011 meeting be approved. David Smith made a motion and Kristen Leddy seconded it. The minutes were approved with a majority vote.

Scholars - Nancy mentioned the following dates as important to our scholars:

WHS Band Concert - January 11
No School Martin Luther King Day -January 16
Midterms - January 19 – 24
SAT Testing – January 28
ACT Testing – February 11
WHS Senior Class Play – February 9-11
Online 2012-13 Class Registration – February 6 – 12

Lynne Vanderslice is heading up the reconvened Academic Committee to help scholars review class choices and confirm appropriate difficulty levels. Scholars' guidance counselors will review class choices. Our objective is to challenge the scholars within their abilities.

O'Londi's birthday was January 1 and Sophie's birthday is January 12. Rafael broke his elbow while wrestling for the WHS Wrestling team for which surgery was required. His insurance covered medical expenses. He won 3-0 in the first wrestling match prior to his accident! He is

following up with physical therapy. JR broke his thumb during wrestling practice and is wearing a cast.

Scholars' Milestones – Lynette Darken reported via email that Onessa has been accepted at LaSalle University, Philadelphia University, Monmouth University and Hood College. Damaris has gotten into her first choice DePaul University in Chicago, as well as Monmouth University. Amanda is still waiting to hear about schools and is planning to apply to more in January. Junior girls are applying to summer programs and started SAT Tutoring on Sundays. Sophie and Hui were inducted into the National Honor Society. Fieldston sent Selena \$1,500 for college!

JP, Rey and Michael Gordon were at the meeting to report that all is well at the boys' house. Heidi the new cook is great – no leftovers on plates at the end of meals! The boy scholars are experimenting with their study schedule – currently studying 2 hours per day. All are working hard inside and outside the classroom.

Academic Liaison – Barb Lyons has enthusiastically served as liaison for the last three years, balancing 14 scholars. Sadly she has resigned her position and will be replaced by one if not two liaisons. All the scholars' academics are presently on track.

College Application Process – Betsy Bell has arranged an SAT prep classes for the junior scholars every Sunday before the March SAT date (2 segments/2 hour class for \$300/scholar. Normally valued at \$900.)

Tutors are as follows:

Barb Lyons – Critical Reading

Janet Zuckerman – Math

Sheila Henry – Writing

Betsy is also working with Shelly Dempsey, a college coach, whose son Mark works in the Admissions Office at Fairfield University.

Scholar Advocates - John Klein mentioned that the idea is to identify advocates during scholars' sophomore year. Meanwhile, advocate selections for senior scholars is as follows based on the students' input and requests:

Amanda – Barb Lyons

Damaris – Barbara Klein

Onessa – Amanda Lord

Advocates for Hui, Selena, Sophie, Micah and O'Londi are TBD.

Nancy mentioned that Carol and George Bauer, of Norwalk's "I Have a Dream" program (which covers college tuition for qualified students who complete 1st grade through high school,) have offered lots of advice for our program.

Summer Programs – Louise Shames reported the following:

- JR is going to work in New London for a new social worker.
- Sophie is filling out applications for programs abroad (Spain) with either the Experiment in International Living (EIL) program or with the Putney program (8 to 10 Putney scholarships are available with a deadline of February 15.)
- Selena wants to go to India or work on a Putney project in the US.
- Hui is hoping to go to Japan with EIL.
- Micah is applying to both The Experiment According To Dad and an internship.
- O'Londi wants to attend the Tufts' Veterinarian Program (\$2900 not covered in full by ABC) for which he needs to raise money or he is also interested in basketball camp.
- Raphael would like to attend/work at Camp Dudley (deadline was January 15.)
- JP is undecided – HMI and Camp Dudley were mentioned during his meeting with Louise. Lynne may have an engineering lead for him.

Louise also mentioned that the students are not grasping the idea of deadlines!

Treasurer – Gayle Herndon reported that expenses are under control. Income this year is not as robust as last year:

The town-wide mailing in 2011 generated \$56,000 so far compared to \$72,000 in 2010. Individual donations for 2011 totaled \$9,000.

Fundraising – Adrienne Reedy reported that the 4th Annual "I Dream A World" Concert is scheduled to take place Sunday, February 12 at 4pm. The Brooklyn High School of Performing Arts Choir will be featured. All the scholars are participating on some level with the production. JR and Sophie will be emcees, JP is singing a solo piece, Damaris and Onessa are

dancing, Zhourry will recite an original poem, Barry and Hui will play the cello and Selena, Onessa and Micah have donated artwork for a silent auction. Advertising begins next week. Please invite your family and friends! She passed around a sign up sheet to get the board involved.

The 15th Anniversary Celebration/Gala is scheduled for June 9, 2012. Adrienne needs chairpeople to help with corporate sponsorships, table sponsorships, publicity, auction items and the program/ad book. The sit down dinner dance will take place at Dolce in Norwalk. Tickets will be \$250 maximum, still TBD.

This year's Golf Outing will be on May 22. It will consist of golf and awards only without an auction so that the event isn't too long.

Open Board Positions – Liz McGroarty asked Board Members to provide job descriptions (ie. what, when, and how long it takes you to do your job) so that open Board positions may be filled. Please contact Liz or Nancy if you have any interest in an open position.

New Business – Lynne Vanderslice discussed the financial viability of the current ABC program. Please review the attached presentation carefully, which considers the last few years' deficits, declining cash flows and how it may affect the three new scholars entering the program. Lynne asked the Board to consider the possibility of holding tight on new scholars until we know the financial situation after our fundraisers. The Long Term Donor Committee will not meet until the spring. We are looking to cut expenses by \$20K. Nancy proposed that we consider a March 1 deadline for this topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.