

International Association for Learning Alternatives
Board of Directors
Minutes
April 29, 2004

Present: Dan Daly, Cheri Exner, Nate Hosley, Ray Morley, Wayne Jennings, Elizabeth Quigley, Bill Scalise, Jackie Smith, Lynn Vincent. Absent: Dave Lehman, Irv Zisselman. Also present: Wally Campbell, Terry Lydell.

1. The meeting was called to order by chair, Jennings at 8:15 a.m at the Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, Michigan. Members introduced themselves and described their current activities.
2. The minutes of January 14, 2004 were approved as printed.
3. The agenda was approved with additions.
4. Wally Campbell, at the invitation of the Board, reported on the STARS youth leadership program. He is a leader of the STARS movement and has helped establish programs in the following states: Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota, with developing interest in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Campbell is moving to Florida and wants to help strengthen and organize STARS organizations in additional states. The Board approved \$4,000 for this initiative.
5. Jennings presented the financial status which shows a balance of \$18,507.52. Minnesota will be sending its membership check of \$8,000 for 2003 to add to the current balance, bringing the total to \$26,507.52. (The check has been received.) The organization's tax returns have been filed for 2003 by the public accounting firm of Lethert, Skwira, Schultz and Co. Carol Busonick continues as the IALA bookkeeper on an hourly basis.
6. The following topics were determined as important goal or focus areas with the person listed as leader:
 - STARS student participation (Campbell)
 - Building links with state organizations (Quigley)
 - Web site and web blog newsletter (Jennings)
 - Research on alternative education and link to practice (Hosley and Morley)
 - Study groups on educational alternatives (Morley)
 - Establish a President's Committee made up of state organization presidents
7. The following state organizations have paid memberships:

Iowa	2002	\$2,500
Michigan	2002	\$5,000
Michigan	2003	\$3,240
Minnesota	2002	\$9,000
Minnesota	2003	\$8,000
Pennsylvania	2003	\$3,600
Washington	2002	\$6,200
Washington	2003	\$1,510
8. Vincent reported on the conference which has 240 registrants.
9. Future conferences:
 - Iowa is considering hosting the conference in April of 2005.
 - Washington will host the conference in late June, 2006.
 - Pennsylvania will explore hosting the conference in 2007.
 - Hawaii has expressed an interest for 2008.
10. Dennis White of the National Alternative Education Association and Anthony Dallmann-Jones of the National At-Risk Education Network will host a meeting in Milwaukee July 17-19 to increase awareness and collaboration among alternative education organizations. Smith will represent IALA and Quigley may

attend as well.

11. Jennings reported on the web site. We now have 110 subscribers to the monthly web blog. This is a free service of IALA and people are encouraged to subscribe.

12. The Board considered its membership and reelected all members. Wally Campbell was elected as a board member and Eugene Howard as an ex officio member. It was agreed that the Board needs to increase diversity in its membership and conference attendees.

13. Morley opened discussion regarding our name and the implications of International outreach. He stated that we need to publicize the conference internationally and we need to plan for equity issues. He recommended the book, *What Is It About Me You Can't Teach?* Quigley suggested that board members might start the effort by bringing others to the conference that are interested in equity issues.

14. Officers were elected: chair, Wayne Jennings; associate chair, Dave Lehman; secretary-treasurer, Dan Daly.

15. Morley talked about the need for residential academies and distributed an article on the topic. Statistics show that many youth lack a stable family setting. He cited studies about the costs of dropping out and that the graduation rate in the U.S. has improved due to the efforts of educational alternatives. He will gather information on residential academies for future consideration.

16. Morley talked about the value of creating study groups on the topic of educational alternatives and plans to establish a study group. Study groups could meet regionally or virtually on the web. They could meet and report on their work at the annual conference.

17. Daly brought up and Hosely elaborated on the initiative needed by IALA in order to be a leader in alternative education. It was agreed by the board that diversity and initiative are among our major goals.

18. Daly moved that we begin a membership initiative fund. After discussion by the board, it was determined that the criteria would be that the applications for funding must match the IALA mission and goals. It was agreed that \$5000 would be set aside for that purpose. Quigley seconded the motion. All approved.

19. Howard presented handouts on his work with school change processes and the Learning Environments Consortium. He asked if any board members' schools would be interested in working with him on a design/change for their school. Several members indicated interest.

20. The budget (attached) was amended with the following line items:

STARS youth leadership	\$4,000
Membership initiatives	\$5,000
Executive director operations	\$5,000
Executive director conference expenses	\$1,000

21. The annual meeting agenda for May 1, 2004 was approved.

22. The meeting was adjourned temporarily at 11:15 and resumed briefly for board changes (Daly as secretary-treasurer and Eugene Howard as ex officio) after the annual meeting on May 1, 2004.

Respectfully submitted
Dan Daly