

GESCA Board Meeting
October 9, 2018
2:00 p.m.
M & M Cafe

Present: Jim Card, Ron Ture, Tomiko Takeuchi, Barry Busse and Mary Ann Buck

Minutes: The Minutes from the September 6, 2018 meeting were approved.

Treasure's Report: The Treasurer's Report, current as of October 7, 2018, was approved. Due to confusion as to "greatest need" for additional gifts members make when renewing their membership, it was decided to list only the three legs of GESCA on the line for "additional gift." A line for the name of the person renewing will also be added to the form.

New Business:

Discussion was held regarding Reynold's High School dropping their Japanese Class as the teacher just gave two week's notice that he is leaving the district. The school is attempting to find another teacher to teach Japanese but to date has been unsuccessful. The principal called Ron and shared that they are looking perhaps to an online program for students. In the meantime, the students are forming a Japanese Club. Tomiko felt we should try to help find an adult to work with the students. It was decided that GESCA would continue to include Reynold's High School in our Exchange program for this year and see what happens as the year progresses while we continue to stay in contact with the Reynold's school principal.

As for this year's exchange, we received the profiles of two of the three girls who will be coming from Ebetsu for our exchange at the beginning of January. Robert Higgins will be coming to Gresham in November with other middle school students and would like to have a tour of Ebetsu Plaza for those students while they are here.

Barry has contacted the Gresham-Barlow Education Foundation regarding a grant for the exchange program but was told that the monies the Foundation raises goes to needs at the schools for equipment, not for individual students. He sent an email to the Gresham-Barlow Superintendent but has not heard back from her yet. He will continue to follow up with her. He also sent an email to Ashley, Mayor Bemis's assistant, and will continue following up on that request. Tomiko suggested he also contact Jerry Hinton since he seemed to think it would be quite easy to find some money for the exchange at the GESCA meeting last year. Ron felt that we should request that the grants be a regular source of income, rather than needing to find money each year. Jim suggested that we put together a written statement showing GESCA's track record over the years. This could be given to individuals when asking for money. Ron will write it. Jim also mentioned that the Gresham-Barlow Superintendent asked about having the students who went to Ebetsu this past summer give the presentation they gave to GESCA to the

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school board. Barry will contact the students to see if they would agree to do so and will then follow up with the Superintendent to arrange a date.

GESCA received a \$1250 grant from the City of Gresham to send an adult to Ebetsu to keep the relationship between the cities alive. Ron had recommended Barry Busse as the recipient. Barry appreciated the gesture, but felt he had to decline. Ron then suggested that John Clark be asked if he would be interested. Jim Card will contact him.

Jim will invite Jay Lopez to speak at the December general meeting about serving as a GESCA representative and what he envisions the role would be.

Jim asked Ron if he would send an email to past students who have applied and took part in the student exchanges to see if they would be interested in working with Ryan to give suggestions on improving the website and to see if there were interest in having a program where students could get together to practice their Japanese.

The Board will look into holding its monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. on months where there is no general meeting. The location will be forthcoming.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Buck, Secretary