

Smoky Valley Home Educators Inc.
"Special Meeting" of Members
August 8-4-2015

Mark Hoover opened in prayer and introduced the purpose of this Special Advisory Council Meeting: To inform and educate membership on the SVHE by-laws and open up discussion within the membership as it pertains to by-laws and member participation, etc.

Meeting held at New Community Church

20 members present to include the following advisory council members: Mark Hoover, Carroll Long, Jesse Smith, Stacy Serrault, and Renee Rivera

Discussion: Define the purpose of SVHE "SVHE is organized for the purpose of encouraging each other in our choice of providing a Christ-Centered education for our children at home through Christian Fellowship and moral support."

A member brought up the concern that SVHE, due to the statement of faith, is not "inclusive" enough and as a result excludes persons that might otherwise be willing to participate more fully.

The concern was answered in that individual's are not inhibited from participating; however, leaders within the organizations must be in agreement with the statement of faith for unity of purpose. SVHE is a Christian organization.

Under Article II-Definition and purpose it reads, "SVHE advocates private home education, i.e., parents who take full responsibility for the education of their children without government assistance."

Discussion about virtual schooling followed. It was brought up that SVHE adheres to the same definition of home schooling that HSLDA does. As members of HSLDA, our organization should adhere to the same guidelines. It was agreed that a follow up conversation will ensue; the Hoovers agreed to look up the HSLDA terminology and position on virtual schooling.

A member shared how they used part time courses as well as co-op classes and other educational opportunities to educate their students. However, their child was awarded a home school diploma at the end of their high school career. The education was administrated by the parent.

Other educational endeavors to consider: Salina Vocational School, SCA, part time school options, Cooperative classes, college classes, etc.

It was reiterated to the members present that there is still a vacant seat on the advisory council that must be filled. The discussion of "church" participation followed. Home church, in the opinion of those present, qualifies as "regular involvement in a local fellowship." Therefore, someone in a home fellowship does meet the qualifications for an SVHE officer as described under Article VI—Officers.

Article VI.1. D. was also discussed. A couple of members reminded those present that this has been voted on before. The statement "Must have been a member of SVHE for three consecutive years by the

time their term of office begins," has an overall purpose that protects the interested party as well as the SVHE membership.

Article VI. 2. C. The position of Treasurer was discussed. The job description and expectations of "treasurer," SVHE and/or Activity treasurers, is somewhat cumbersome and the wording ambiguous in areas. It was agreed that a follow up meeting with activities coordinators and treasurers will be scheduled, compliance as well as the consideration of revisions will be discussed at that follow up meeting.

It was discussed that perhaps by-laws should be changed or amended to allow for activities with separate checkbooks/treasurers to write checks for whatever amount as long as they are still operating within the budget set at the beginning of the school year and if at any time that budget is exceeded, then the Advisory Council or membership would need to approve. Any change related to this would need to also define these treasurers as Vice-Treasurers in the by-laws and include definition of duties/responsibilities. This will also be discussed at a follow-up meeting with coordinators and treasurers to come up with the wording of any amendment.

A discussion about "Membership" brought up the definition of active member. Currently, the by-laws state under Article IX. 1.A. "An active member...who recognizes the purpose and statement of faith...and will not promote anything which will counter these. Examples...atheism, evolution, vulgar language, homosexuality, bisexuality, alcohol use, cults, occult activities or pornography." Due to the current climate, it was agreed that our group should probably look more closely at HSLDA's language concerning these life style choices and proceed accordingly. How does our group wish to address these social issues, or should we acknowledge them at all?

A member brought up a concern that the Eagles Facebook page may be "sharing member's information." This would be a violation of Article IX. 4.

SVHE will soon have a new Web Master. This issue will be passed on to that individual.

(An issue of 10% and or 2/3 of membership for a quorum was brought up—indicating possibly an inconsistency in the by-laws)

Most in attendance agreed that we should continue to have monthly meetings or gatherings besides the 4 business meetings. Perhaps there should be a sign-up sheet or have a committee person in charge of coordinating these meetings.

It was re-iterated that by-law changes could not just be made or proposed on-the-fly per say. They must be requested by the membership. There will be much prayer and consideration of any proposed by-law changes and then presented at the November Business Meeting if need be.

Mark Hoover brought up the suggestion that SVHE may want to purchase insurance for the SVHE officers in case there is a law suit for whatever reason.

August 10, 2015 next Meeting of Members. A new secretary must be nominated and voted in, in order to continue with business as usual.

Meeting adjourned:

*Minutes prepared by Renee Rivera