

Board of Directors quarterly report: May 2024

Greetings parents, board members, staff, and residents at RSS. The last couple of months have been really busy! It's almost June and I have garden fever! Working in my garden is one way I have to reduce stress and get some good old vitamin D. The extra sunshine every day is very uplifting! At RSS things are looking up as well. Cal has gotten some television spots advertising RSS and our mission. The thrift store continues to be a very positive place that welcomes everyone in our community, and I hope you all have enjoyed the daily Facebook posts and photos of RSS residents getting out and having fun.

As for the board, we have taken on some new challenges. We've decided, along with Cal and Leanne, that RSS's accounting system needs an upgrade. In June, we plan to begin the move to Quickbooks. Seth, Leanne and Barb Crawford will be involved in the changeover. Barb has years of experience working with SSA in data entry and computers and has volunteered to help out. She's also my sister, but I promise I didn't coerce her. She volunteered, really!

Our June board meeting will be a working meeting, where the various committees will get together and work on their own projects. The ethics committee is planning on coming up with a survey to send out to all staff to find out what works and needs work at RSS. Finance will be working on the changeover to quickbooks and the executive committee will work on fundraising ideas, more ways to reach out to our community, and to start a search for someone to replace Cal when he retires.

Shannon and Lindsey, two members of the state Developmental Disabilities Department, met with Cal, Angie, Leanne and I recently to discuss Safety Science, which has to do with resiliency and the idea that safety lies in the capacity of people, teams and organizations to make things right. I downloaded a book on the subject and really liked the following quotes:

Successful teams and organizations do not take past success as a guarantee of safety. Successful teams keep a discussion of risk alive, even when things look safe. Everyone on the team should be able to bring fresh perspective to problems, and it's important to inspire and reward people, and to let them know that it's okay to say "no, I think I might have a better idea."

As if that isn't enough to think about, there was also a webinar on being part of a board of directors and what our responsibilities are. The program suggested an activity which I would like to pass on to anyone interested. Write down what you think are five of the most pressing issues at RSS right now. Send them to me. If we all come up with similar concerns, that means we're all communicating with each other well! The webinar also clearly defined the role of the board and it's members and the role of executive director. I feel like I know a little bit more about my responsibilities as board chair. Good to know!

In summary, we're working, we're trying, we're learning new things and it's warm outside!! Get out and do stuff, people!