

**NOTES**  
**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, May 16, 2013; 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the second floor conference room at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

**Members Present:** Hani Nassar, Bawol Cabiri, Ken Humphreys, and Toshiaki Satake

**Members Absent:** Jack Crawford, Marc Swinnen, Michael Kuchinsky, Ramona Hodge, Kyle May, and Becky Mich.

**Others Present:** Marion Love and Karl Wolfe

**Guests Present:** Bobbie Siefert

**Staff Present:** Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was **not** present; therefore, no official action was taken during the meeting.

**Call to Order and Approval of April 18, 2013 Minutes:** Hani Nassar, Chair, convened the meeting at 5:35 pm.

The April meeting minutes were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

**Introduction of Guests and Board Membership Changes:** Mr. Nassar said Karl Wolfe has submitted his application to become a full Board member of HIC.

Mr. Nassar introduced Dr. Bobbie Siefert, Curriculum Specialist for Hickory Public Schools (HPS). Dr. Siefert discussed a Hickory Public School (HPS) Global Awareness project, which will initially be conducted through Southwest Elementary School. The cultural diversity project builds on groundwork laid by HIC members and educators Dr. Marion Love, Betty Peterson, and Ramona Hodge. They plan to form a task force, and to develop and extend an integrated multi-cultural curriculum across all grade levels in HPS. The task force will work together toward a structured curriculum for K-5<sup>th</sup> grades so that all students will depart with a new international mindedness. The task force will meet again on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the international focus and decide whether it will be on one country, one region, etc. Dr. Siefert said Hickory Public Schools hopes the effort at Southwest Elementary will become a template for a program they will replicate across the entire system, at all elementary schools and on through the high school. She thanked HIC for their initial investment, a \$500 grant awarded to Southwest Elementary School earlier this year. Mr. Nassar asked that Dr. Siefert keep HIC updated on their efforts. Dr. Marion Love said the project is being well received and asked Mr. Nassar to add the initiative to HIC's agenda for monthly updates in the future.

Anita Gupta of India is interested in the HIC, but was unable to attend the meeting today.

### **Old Business:**

International Film Festival for Children (IFFC 2013) Wrap-up – There were 11 films shown at the festival, representing a good international selection. Mr. Nassar thanked the HIC members who attended and assisted as volunteers during the day. Approximately 100 people attended, with more present in the morning than afternoon. A list of the films shown will be e-mailed to HIC members. Free pizza was served during lunch. For next year, information will be shared with schools much earlier to build attendance. The main event expenses were rental of films, posters, postcards, activities and lunch. There was no charge to attend, since sponsor donations and City funds paid for all expenses. Dr. Love suggested that films be determined by January 2014, so information can be shared with the schools and a study of those countries built into the curriculum. Dr. Siefert said films could also be selected according to the world regions being studied. Bawol Cabiri suggested information also be shared with churches in advance.

Dr. Marion Love suggested a sub-committee be formed to draft a timeline for the event. Mr. Nassar said he would meet soon with Alan Jackson, his counterpart in planning the festival, to assess the festival. Dr. Love asked if there is a possibility to hold the festival on multiple days during the week, and bring students directly from their schools on busses. The festival could also be extended to students in the Newton-Conover and Catawba County School Systems, with one day offered to each school system. Mr. Nassar said this concept removes the parents, so children would occupy all of the 400 seats. Students attending would need to be determined by the school system(s). Another idea was to bring students over in shifts during their assigned day.

HIC Grant Application – International Camp/BSA Results – The international Boy Scout from Egypt arrives in early June. Ken Humphreys revised his initial BSA grant application to HIC and re-submitted it. Following the initial application, HIC members voted three for and three against the grant. After revising the grant application, the vote remained a tie of three for and three against, although two HIC members had changed their votes in the interim. Mr. Nassar's vote in favor broke the tie and the grant application passed. A \$500 check will be written to the BSA, which will be directed toward paying the scout's teaching salary while he is here. Dr. Humphreys said the scout is 22 years old and is actually a scoutmaster in Egypt. While here, he will attend a HIC meeting and update members on his experiences at camp. Dr. Love suggested Hal Rowe at WHKY might be interested in interviewing him on-air during his talk show.

Folkmoot USA 2013 Update – Mr. Nassar said the Folkmoot USA brochures have been received and will be distributed through Tasteful Beans, the Arts Council, and Foothills Gymnastics. The brochure will be e-mailed to members. One local sponsor is secured. The event is on July 21<sup>st</sup> and ticket pricing is \$15, \$10, and \$5 this year. Mr. Nassar plans to ask Folkmoot to put the local ticket pricing on the brochure next year, which is a discount from their website price. Dr. Love will communicate with persons who attended Folkmoot during the past two years.

Newton-Conover City Schools International Festival (April 26) Wrap-up – Dr. Humphreys said he did not hear back from Renae Bostwick, and so did not attend the event. No update has been received from Ms. Bostwick.

Footcandle Society Foreign Film Ideas – The foreign film “No” was presented last week. Dr. Humphreys said it was well attended and a very good film. Mr. Nassar said the film was open to the public, in addition to Footcandle Society members. The list of foreign films developed last year will be revisited for future film options; Mr. Nassar will e-mail it to HIC members. Dr. Love said she would also suggest a few additional choices not available on Netflix.

HIC Junior Membership Update – The Boy Scouts organization will survey high school students at the beginning of the school year and forward names of students interested in international careers to the HIC. These names will hopefully contain both future HIC Junior Members and Model UN participants. Dr. Humphreys said he is also talking to Jack Crawford about the possibility of creating a Model UN component for middle school students in the future. He noted the new scout executive has added evaluation criteria to their staff evaluation stating that each staff member will secure at least one high school to participate in Model UN. Their region covers 11 counties, so he hopes at least 11 high schools will participate next year. Information on the Model UN is being communicated with the schools now, so they will know the dates well in advance next year.

**New Business:**

Great Decisions 2013 Dates & Topics – Michael Kuchinsky will lead Great Decisions. The course will be held at the Beaver Memorial Library on six consecutive Tuesday nights, beginning on September 10. Dr. Kuchinsky has selected six of the ten topics in the course to discuss, one per week. The library’s first floor meeting room is reserved. Dr. Kuchinsky’s proposal will be e-mailed to members.

Unity Day, May 18 in Newton – Mr. Nassar said someone attending the recent International Film Festival talked to him about the upcoming Unity Day in Newton. There was no additional information on the event to share.

**Next Meeting:** Mr. Nassar thanked Dr. Siefert for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2013, 5:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

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Hani Nassar, Chair  
Hickory International Council

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Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk