

Ellensburg School District Education Foundation
Annual Board Meeting • April 1st, 2015 • Bar 14 • 6:45 a.m.

Board Members Present: Michelle Cawley, Missy Davis, Paul Farris, Deb Gauck, Mary Gordon, Jim and Patti Gylling, John MacRae, Mike McCloskey, Trish Perna, Jeff Slothower, Dick Wedin

Board Members Absent: Mark Larsen, Richard Wachsmith, Bob Titus

Meeting was called to order at 6:50 a.m.

Guests Present: Pam Wilson (Senior Parents), Hillary Huffman (5th Grade Camp, Valley View Parent), Jason Eng (Mt. Stuart staff, 5th Grade Camp), Rachel Case (Morgan and Lincoln), Cara Marrs (Valley View), Becky Guenther (Mt. Stuart), Natalie Joyce (Mt. Stuart), Eric Jackson (Mt. Stuart), Lisa Favero (Valley View).

Jeff asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Approval of April 1st Agenda

With a motion from Jim and 2nd by Missy, the April 1st agenda was approved.

Approval of March 4th Minutes:

Upon a motion made by Jim and seconded by Missy, the March 2015 minutes were approved.

Superintendent's Report:

Paul Farris announced that he and Farley Walker presented to a state group regarding our upcoming middle school construction, a requirement when the project involves combining new construction and remodeling and will impact students on campus. Things went well and our project received a green light. Interviews for the construction management firm will begin soon, with an anticipated move in date of February 2018. Meetings regarding staffing the school district are next on the agenda in preparation for 2015/2016. Spring break was a great opportunity to get some projects done in the schools, and once students return it's a big push until the end of the year.

Treasurer's Report:

In Richard's absence, there was no report.

Jeff gave the guests present an overview of our budget, the process we use for income and expenditures and how we act as the umbrella agent for several groups both as a 501c3 and as a provider of insurance.

Annual Meeting Associate Group Reports

EHS Booster Club

Jeff Slothower reported that the EHS Booster Club is functioning with just a few parents. They give 4 scholarships to college bound seniors, do many projects for the school and house dedicated team funds that are then dispersed to the teams. They have been helpful with the new EHS Hall of Fame that will hold it's first banquet in September. They also coordinate 'Coaches vs. Cancer' each year.

Senior Party

Pam Wilson, this year's treasurer for the Senior Party parents, reported that the budget has been set, the venue secured, and games set. They have a great group of parents ready to plan and implement a safe, fun party.

Early Learning

Foundation Board member Michelle Cawley reported that Kittitas County Early Learning Coalition recently received a \$25,000 STEM grant. They are sponsoring upcoming events focusing on STEM and special needs children. They've added two staff members, and continue to make efforts to improve parent engagement. Plans are underway to be present at all Book Mobile stops this summer to increase the distribution of books for pre school ages. Volunteers are needed to help with developmental screening.

Lincoln Elementary

Rachel Case reported that Lincoln Elementary is running strong with a \$55,000 budget. They allocate funds in all areas of the school, with focus this year on replacing playground equipment. Major fundraisers include a Spell-A-Thon in the fall and a tulip sale in the spring. They sponsor and coordinate the Lincoln Fun Fair each spring, an event with a long history of success. They are working hard to trim down to a manageable number of focused fundraisers.

Morgan Middle School

Rachel Case reported that Morgan MS continues to have a parent presence but it is hard to find parents who want to commit the time to be involved in parent group activities. She explained that middle school is a shorter time than elementary or high school, and having the 8th graders at the high school makes a difference. They meet monthly and have a budget of about \$7300; activities they sponsor/coordinate include Teacher Night, Book Fair, the 8th Grade Party and many teacher requests.

Mount Stuart Elementary

Natalie Joyce, Mt. Stuart Parent Group representative, reported that their parent group is growing and very active. They handle a \$13,000 budget with their 'Wacky Fun Run' being their biggest fundraiser. They sponsor/coordinate Bingo Night, Movie Night, 5th Grade Camp, grade level field trips, and gifts to teachers. They are working hard to increase community engagement with all parents.

Valley View Elementary

The Valley View report was given by Lisa Favero. Valley View is unique as they became a PTA several years ago and their fundraising, activities and insurance are all under the PTA umbrella. Their annual Walk-A-Thon earns around \$25,000 and they use these funds to sponsor/coordinate Bingo Night, Book Fair, 5th Grade Camp, gifts to all teachers and help with field trip admissions. This year they also purchased trees for the Valley View campus, hosted an illustrator to present to the students, and helped purchase needed software.

Caring Cupboard

Caring Cupboard began in October 2014 as a way to help our most needy students in a timely manner. Financial donations are given to a dedicated fund with the ESD Foundation and Mary Gordon handles requests from Principals, counselors and other staff members. All donations are delivered within 24 hours, and anything that improves a student's ability to do well in school can be requested. Caring Cupboard is always looking for new donors.

Jeff asked the Associate group attendees for feedback on what the Foundation can be doing to help their groups. Pam Wilson responded that having the structure of the Foundation, with rules in place, is very helpful as many of the parents involved rotate in and out of groups and are looking for help with the basics. Dick Wedin gave a brief explanation of what we offer the Associate groups including liability insurance and protection under our 501c3. We also coordinate the Unified Scholarship, distribute mini grants to district staff, and are building funds in our Education Endowment Trust. Our major fundraiser is our Super Bowl Warm Up party in late January and we are always looking for volunteers.

Foundation Board and Officer Elections

With a motion by Mary and seconded by Dick, the following term were renewed for 3 years: Deb Gauck, John MacRae, Mike McCloskey, Bob Titus, and Dick Wedin.

With a motion by John and seconded by Missy, the following 2015/2016 officers were elected: Vice President Mike McCloskey, Co Treasurers Dick Wedin and Richard Wachsmith, and Secretary Mary Gordon. The office of President was not filled.

Committees:

Scholarships

Mike announced the Unified Scholarship applications are due April 15th.

Finance-Insurance

No report.

Communications

Dick made a motion to renew our \$175 ASFA membership. Seconded by Mary. Dick will send in the renewal and Mary will send out the log in information so the other Board members can access the site.

Retreat

Jeff, John and Missy will work on an agenda and date for the upcoming retreat. Areas of focus will be creating a rubric for assessing mini grant requests, developing a Foundation mission statement and strategic plan, adding members to our group, discussions on the fundraiser, and creating a plan in the absence of a President. There will be no regular May meeting.

New Business

The Board took the opportunity to discuss the current situation with 5th Grade Camp and how the fundraising time commitment is taking it's toll on parents and teachers. There will be a meeting soon with interested parties to discuss the possibility of the district funding 5th Grade Camp in the future. Ellensburg has been taking 5th graders to camp for 47 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

There is no upcoming scheduled meeting. Jeff will be announcing the date, time and place for our 2015 retreat and meeting plans for next year are still to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Gordon, ESDEF Secretary