

Retreat Summary

The following points were raised at the retreat held in August. I have written them up as a starting point for any further discussion as well as an outline for the projects we hope to pursue this coming year. They are in no particular order and further work will be needed to refine any ideas or develop programs at the committee level.

- A) It was established that we need to work with school administration officials to clarify and define where the Ellensburg School District can best help or offer support. Starting with the Superintendent, School Board and School Principals, we need to draft a set of ideas where our efforts can best serve and meet regularly with administration and teachers to create a team approach to solving some of the issues we face.
- B) We need to concentrate efforts to solicit and raise monies from sources outside of our community, so we can leverage the program assistance we offer, without further burdening local resources. This may include grants, soliciting from large corporations, and fundraising efforts.
- C) The scholarship fair was a great success and should be continued. In addition efforts are needed by our group to further inform students of available scholarship or program opportunities.
- D) Our web site needs to be refocused and kept up to date with current activities. It needs to be expanded to help us communicate with each other and to the community as to our efforts.
- E) The Tile program needs to be re-energized to the community, and look at raising the price to purchase a tile.
- F) It is critical that we develop stronger public relations efforts to develop a known presence in the community. This presence will help with fundraising, scholarship activity and the like.
- G) Our end of year fundraising/annual meeting has developed and grown. Consensus is to drop the annual meeting portion and make it a stand-alone annual fundraising event with some specific purposes and goals to benefit the programs of the foundation. This may mean a larger event, but more critically, it means getting the right people invited and to get those people to attend the festivities and leave with a lighter wallet.
- H) To establish an endowment fund to help fund a perpetual scholarship was discussed. A goal of raising \$30,000 to fund such a scholarship program would be needed for such a program. This scholarship would be given in the name of the Ellensburg School District Foundation and would be a departure from previous programs that are designed to help many, rather than one individual.