



Ellensburg School District Education Foundation

Fundraising Retreat Minutes • Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020 • 6:00 pm • ZOOM

Present: Deb, Mike, Maureen, Mary, Lowell, Brandon, Michele, Dick, Tara

Welcome and Call to Order – Mike started the meeting at 6:11 PM. Dick reported that \$10,400 in mini-grants has not been expended. The District has funded some projects that were awarded mini-grants. Maureen suggested reviewing projects at the November meeting to ascertain why funds weren't expended. Michele will send a follow-up email to awardees reminding them that unexpended funds will be reallocated to other projects on November 1. Depending on their response, the Board will determine whether or not to give them extensions because of COVID-19. Dick said there is language on the mini-grant application that funds must be expended by November 1, and that awardees should resubmit applications if funds are unexpended.

Discussion Question #1 – Do we hold a mid-winter fundraiser?

Concerns were raised about ESDEF bandwidth, technical know-how, whether our efforts would show results, etc. Mike suggested sending a letter to those who've attended fundraisers in the past, letting them know that we understand times are tough, but that the District still has needs, so if they can support ESDEF, great. Michele suggested that we could do an online auction for the golf tournament and other larger items. The consensus was that there will be no fundraiser this year, and that Lowell will draft an appeal letter.

Discussion Question #2 – Early Mini-grant Request

Mike received the below email from an ESD teacher:

"I am trying to figure out ways to give VA students hands-on and "get outside" science activities. They are about to start a virtual owl pellet dissection lab. I have been doing some shopping and found a "bargain bucket" of 100 owl pellets for \$179.95- we would need 3 buckets plus a pair of gloves, cheap forceps, and a toothpick for each student. Total would be somewhere around \$600 to get everything for each 7th grade science student to participate. Is this something that the ESD Foundation would help with? I haven't checked with Michelle about funding this yet but think it may be outside the budget.

I know that it is expensive and I will probably have plenty of other things that I would like to have students do to get them away from screens and doing science. But I have done this activity several times over the years with Science Club and it is a hoot (tee hee)!"

The Board will move the mini-grant deadline to January 20, 2021. Awards will be made at the February meeting. Mike will email staff about the new application date. Mary will update the application form and procedures on the ESDEF web page.

Strategic Planning: Deb asked about developing the mission and vision now given that we've already developed the strategic plan. Mary expressed frustration that we haven't developed an operational plan to address questions like, do we want to keep allocating mini-grants when funds aren't being expended? Michele said there is value in continuing to allocate mini-grants.

Adjournment: Mike adjourned the meeting at 7:48.

Tara Brown • Michele Cawley • Amy Cziske • Deborah Gauck • Mary Gordon
Jinger Haberer • Cara Marrs • Mike McCloskey • Lowell Murphree
Brandon Robertson • Maureen Rust • Dan Shissler • Dick Wedin