

Ellensburg School District Education Foundation
Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 6:45 AM – Zoom

Board Members Present:

Deborah Gauck Mary Gordon Jinger Haberer	Mike McCloskey Brandon Robertson	Maureen Rust Dan Shissler Dick Wedin
--	-------------------------------------	--

Board Members Absent: Tara Brown.

Board Members Excused: Michele Cawley, Lowell Murphree.

Guest Attendance: None.

Welcome and Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 6:49 AM.

Approval of September, 2020 Minutes: Mary moved to approve the September, 2020 minutes. Maureen seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Dick reported that Madeline DeMaintenon, the CPA from Grebb, Johnson, Reed & Wachsmith who has been preparing the financial statements, had her baby and will be gone 1-2 months. Richard Wachsmith will deposit checks, but he may not prepare financial statements. Dick reported that the only account activity has been scholarship payouts; the majority of recipients have submitted evidence of their enrollment and have been paid. Dick will ask Richard for financial statements. Mary will send a card to Madelyn from the Board.

Superintendent's Report: Jinger reported that she was at Valley View on the first day of hybrid school, that everyone was excited, and that COVID safety protocols seemed to be working. This is also true for the other elementary schools. MMS will open in-person next Monday, EHS the following Monday. With new guidelines from OSPI, ESDEF may be getting funding requests from the music program because students are only allowed to do percussion and strings, not woodwind or choir. ESD needs bus drivers, as many drivers were seniors, and have retired due to COVID concerns. Distance learning with new systems seems to be working. Mary asked if ESD lost staff/families because they were uncomfortable with in-person attendance. Jinger said one-third of students signed up for Virtual Academy, and teachers are able to teach in VA if they identify as high-risk. VA may continue post-COVID.

Committee Reports

Mini Grants: The Board agreed to move the mini-grant deadline to the end of January.

Caring Cupboard: Mary reported that letters went out last week for ask for funds. She took the names of donors, added the names of 2016 fundraiser donors, and added other names and solicited funds from them. About 120 letters were sent. Mary received a thank you letter from Levi Teasley and Connor (student), the adaptive bike recipient. Caring Cupboard gifting so far include snacks and headphones. Mary will contact Dan about a calculator donation. She also received a thank you from Sue Hammond for the Caring Cupboard program. Dick said he hasn't received an invoice for the second adaptive bike.

Tile Wall: Dick reported that if there is consensus about his email proposal, he will pay the deposit to Fast Lane Signs and ask them to install the tile wall. Mary moved to accept his proposal, Maureen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Strategic planning: Mike will work with Cathy Bambrick about how to move forward and how to share information with the Board. The fundraising retreat is Wednesday, October 21. The Board will make a decision about whether/what to do for a fundraiser. Scholarship Fair: Michael Johanssen and Mike will send a letter to scholarship donors about posting videos that describe their scholarships. Break-out session videos about how to apply for scholarships, etc., will also be posted.

New Business: Resignations: Amy and Cara have resigned. The Board will look at its policy about who receives a red apple for Board service. Deb will send thank you notes to Amy, Cara, and Tor.

Board survey results: Mike said results showed that he needs to provide more information about the unified scholarship, which gives students the opportunity to apply for multiple scholarships on one form. The ESD form includes an essay. Donors can choose to be part of the unified scholarship or have their own scholarship. If they choose the unified scholarship, donors can either choose the recipient themselves or have ESD choose. The unified scholarship is an ESDEF program. Dick wonders if we can publicize scholarships earlier, e.g., in freshman year, when students/parents are developing academic plans. Mike will ask Michael Johanssen about this.

The scholarship fair is a joint project between the ESD and ESDEF. Michael Johanssen sends letters to donors; they attend the fair and provide information about their scholarships. There are also break-out sessions about how to apply for scholarships, etc. In the last few years, most attendees have been juniors. Dan said there are scholarships available for students in middle school; funds accumulate until graduation. So ESDEF may want to advertise in middle school.

Youth Awards: Mike solicited funds from ESDEF and Kiwanis for this in its first year. Because the Youth Awards is a county-wide program, there are representatives on the Youth Awards Board from throughout the county. Mike sends applications to schools, businesses, etc., and a group of community leaders chooses awardees.

NSFA conference: Deb said the virtual conference is this February, and wondered if any Board members are interested in attending. Maureen is interested. Mike will send information to Board members.

Kaleidoscope proposal: Mike doesn't think we need scholarship/mini-grant management at this point, but we may if we grow much larger. The Board agreed. Mary had concerns about sending student information to them, and them selling this information to others. Deb said if we hire staff, scholarship/mini-grant management could be tasks for staff. Dick talked with Richard Wachsmith about hiring staff; they will determine unrestricted funds available for general operations. Dick suggested that if we recruit staff, we either contract, or have a CPA firm handle payroll/accounting, etc. if we hire. Dick suggested that we consider Cathy Bambrick.

Deb asked about the Board survey and suggested that we include results in our strategic planning retreat. Maureen suggested recruitment of more members. Deb asked if we should recruit now or wait until we define roles and responsibilities. The Board agreed to hold off on recruiting, but will continue to think about new members.

Adjournment: Mike adjourned the meeting at 7:54 AM. The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 6:45 AM via Zoom.

Submitted by Deborah Gauck, Secretary