

Ellensburg School District Education Foundation
Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, September 2, 2020, 6:45 AM – Zoom

Board Members Present:

Michele Cawley Amy Cziske Deborah Gauck Mary Gordon	Jinger Haberer Mike McCloskey Lowell Murphree	Brandon Robertson Maureen Rust Dan Shissler Dick Wedin
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Board Members Absent/Excused: Tara Brown, Cara Marrs

Guest Attendance: None.

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

Approval of August Minutes: Maureen moved to approve the August 5, 2020 minutes. Dick seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Dick emailed the August 31, 2019 and 2020 financial statements that Grebb, Johnson, Reed & Wachsmith prepared. Assets as of August 31, 2020 were:

- General checking: \$45,407
- Storms payment account: \$16,775
- Edward Jones accounts: \$1,353,239
- Net assets, restricted: \$1,355,135
- Net assets, unrestricted: \$60,286
- Total net assets: \$1,415,421

Dick reported that he is paying out scholarships, but that there are many funds that haven’t been claimed for 2019 and 2020. Mary confirmed that students receive a letter explaining how to claim funds once they enroll in college.

Superintendent’s Report: Jinger reported that classes will be online for at least four weeks. Mark Larson is predicting a transmission spike when CWU students return. The District provided staff with professional development for Schoology and Edgenuity, its online platforms. However, Jinger anticipates that there will be glitches with technology, and asked the ESDEF Board to let community know that the District would appreciate their patience given all of the changes due to COVID. The District will do baseline and follow-up testing to determine how many students maintained academic growth and how many need extra support. It will bring students who need extra support into the classroom in September, and hopes to gradually bring in smaller groups of students for extra support. The District will present an amended hybrid learning plan to the District Board. Jinger believes COVID has increased the opportunity for District staff to work as team; Mike added that it has allowed the District to start thinking outside the box.

Committee Reports/Activities

Caring Cupboard: Mary reported that she will mail a solicitation letter, and has reached out to counselors and principals letting them know we have funds. Anytime Fitness will conduct a supply drive; Mary will distribute those supplies. Dan reminded Mary that he has calculators. Mike reported that the District is providing hotspots for families without broadband access. Jinger reported that the District used COVID funds to purchase hotspots, but if they need more, it would be great if the ESDEF could fund them. OSPI

said there may be CARES Act funds for hotspots. Jinger will ask Kelly Kronbauer what the cost of a hotspot is. Michele said there is a community effort to document the need for broadband access and a push for more equity.

Tile Wall: Dick reported that instead of name stickers on plexiglass, Fast Lane Signs will put stickers on tiles, then cover with plexiglass, so that all we have to do is take the plexiglass off to add stickers. Dick asked Fast Lane Signs if the stickers will stick for 20 years, they said yes. Fast Lane Signs will work with Jeff Whitney to measure the tile wall for plexiglass installation.

Kittitas County Youth Awards: Mike reported that he created a video award ceremony, announced winners via video, and sent notifications to nominees. A committee that included Mike and Maureen delivered plaques for all but three winners at their homes. Mike added the ceremony to the ESDEF website. Maureen suggested adding plaque delivery photos to the ESDEF website; they are already on the ESDEF Facebook page.

Old Business

Strategic Planning Update: Mike reported that In September, the Board will begin discussion about staffing the ESDEF. In October, it will find its “true north”, and in January, it will define Board roles. In an Executive Committee meeting, members agreed that the Board would not host an in-person fundraiser in 2021. Mark Larson does not think Kittitas County will be able to have large gatherings until March. The Executive Committee suggested that instead of a fundraiser, the Board do an annual appeal that includes links to videos of the Youth Awards, etc. Michele suggested writing an update letter to donors about all that ESDEF is doing, to send that in September, then send them an appeal later. Dick said part of the Board discussion should be how many letters we send. Mike will start working on draft plan for this.

Set Other Retreat Dates: The Board will have a strategic planning retreat and an “alternate fundraiser” retreat. The Board may have Cathy Bambrick facilitate action planning at a regular Board meeting.

New Business

Board survey: Mike reported that he will send the Board survey out soon. Questions will include: what is our true north, what is your wheelhouse, etc.

Board recruitment: Mike requested that the Board think about the areas of expertise it is missing and about adding new members who are workhorses. Once the Board defines member roles, it will solicit new members. Maureen believes the survey will help inform the Board about needed areas of expertise.

Scholarship fair: Mike believes the Board will have to cancel this event, so he will try to do a video version and add it to the ESDEF website, as well as video instructions.

Mini-grants: Mike reported that he’s not sure what teachers would ask for, as he thinks most of his colleagues are in same boat, i.e., they’re not sure what they need given distance learning. One question is, do we hold off on mini-grants and use funds for staff, or do we proceed? Maureen suggested that we open up the application process and see what we receive. Michele agreed, and said her need for books has skyrocketed given preschool closures, and she thinks there are other needs. She will give books to preschool staff, who will deliver them to students’ homes. She suggested that teachers may also want to attend virtual conferences. Michele will manage the mini-grant process. Dick reported that \$10,500 of \$16,000 in mini-grants was not claimed last year, and that the ESDEF could do this for staffing. Brandon suggested that these funds could be used for hotspots.

Adjournment: Mike adjourned the meeting at 7:27 AM. The next regular board meeting will be October 7, 2020 at 6:45 AM via Zoom.

Submitted by Deborah Gauck, Secretary