

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

Board Members Present:

Michele Cawley Deborah Gauck Mary Gordon	Jinger Haberer Mike McCloskey Lowell Murphree	Maureen Rust Dan Shissler Dick Wedin
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Board Members Excused: Tara Brown.

Board Members Absent: Brandon Robertson.

Guest Attendance: None.

Welcome and Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 6:46 AM.

Approval of November Minutes: Michele moved to approve the November 4, 2020 minutes. Maureen seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Dick reported that assets as of 12/2/20 were:

- General checking: \$38,690.82
- Storms payment account: \$44,275.00
- Edward Jones accounts: \$1,257,050.76
- Wahle scholarship: \$31,557.25

November activity included Caring Cupboard revenue; and Caring Cupboard, National School Foundation Association, and scholarship expenses. Dick has asked our web consultant about moving from Square credit card processing to a different company. Grebb, Johnson, Reed & Wachsmith is processing our checks, but we won’t get financial statements until January. Almost all scholarships have been paid.

Superintendent’s Report: Jinger reported that Neil Musser is working with the Kittitas County Public Health Department to strengthen the District’s COVID-19 contact tracing. The new elementary schools are being constructed; the new elementary building has three name choices. All schools are opening on Wednesdays for extra support for students. Nutrition services has provided over 116,000 meals; that doesn’t count meals for students in the hybrid model. Some secondary students are struggling with the virtual model; the District is moving them from a virtual to hybrid model, although parents can opt-out of this approach. The District may also use a project-based learning approach for these students. Mike said students are being surveyed about whether they want to switch from a hybrid to virtual model or vice versa. Mary asked how many homeless students there are this year; Jinger will ask Patty Kimel. Regarding how many students the District has “lost”, the “freshman on track” measure is down from 77% last year to 62% this year. Jinger said Beau Snow will present a school improvement plan at the School Board meeting tonight. Mike said the District has contacted 100% of

students, but not all might be engaged. The State has suspended the Becca law, so it is hard to enforce attendance. Mary said it will be interesting to track differences in performance based on the type of model used. Michele asked if there has been an increase in home schooling; Jinger said the District “lost” 210 students, some of whom are doing State online schooling. Many parents kept their kindergarten students home another year. Jinger said literacy proficiency results are on track with last year’s, but are lower for math and writing.

Committee Reports

Caring Cupboard: Mary reported that she received many requests in November for both existing and new students. For the holiday Giving Tree, Mary did a Zoom call with counselors. They are gathering the names of students falling through cracks and gathering three wants/needs. So far there are 66 students on the list. Gifts will be delivered earlier this year, on December 11; it is harder to distribute them because of the hybrid model. One community member and her daughters are helping with Caring Cupboard.

Website: Mary reported that the website is updated. She will check in with our web consultant about moving to Stripe credit card processing, not Square, as Stripe also gathers addresses. Mary will update the Board member list on the website. Mike asked Mary if she could separate scholarships and mini-grants into separate tabs.

Tile Wall: Mary reported that the brochure is ready to go; she confirmed with the Board that members want the brochure in color.

Strategic Planning Update: Maureen reported that she met with Cathy Bambrick; they reviewed the strategic plan to determine how to develop an annual plan. They decided to schedule several sessions: “finding the why” or true north, defining Board roles and responsibilities (with guest attendance by Gallery One and the Shoemaker Manufacturing Foundation), and developing the annual plan. Mary will put the strategic plan on the website. Cathy asked about increasing mini-grant buy-in and having another grant writing workshop. Deb said these workshops have been well-attended in the past, with the exception of the fall 2019 session. There have not been any sessions since then because of COVID-19. Deb asked about developing our true north at this time; her experience is that this work traditionally happens before developing a strategic plan. Maureen said it was significant to her that Cathy is suggesting the Board do this; Mike agrees that there is value in doing this. Maureen will send a Doodle poll for the true north session.

Old Business

Apple Awards: Dick sent out a revised policy; the Board approved the policy. Michele suggested adding “Foundation’s Red Apple award” to be consistent with other language.

NSFA Conference Attendees: Mike said National School Foundation Association registration is now open. The conference will be virtual for four days in February. Maureen and Mary are interested in attending.

Newsletter: Mary is working on the newsletter.

Solicitation Letter: Cathy suggested a more aggressive ask, highlight how ESDEF has used funds to benefit students and staff. The letter will be sent out in January.

Job Descriptions/Google Drive: Mike has developed job descriptions for the scholarship fair and has put them on Google drive.

New Business

NSFA Conference Presentation Proposal: Mike developed a proposal about small volunteer board activities for the National School Foundation Association conference.

Yard Signs: Mary received an email from a community member about a District “friend-raiser”. She partners with a funeral home and Shirtworks to make yard signs that support District staff; she asks for \$5/sign. In addition, some senior parents have started an “adopt a senior” program; Mary adopted a student and occasionally reaches out to him.

Letter to Staff: Mike reported that Mike Welch is helping him send this letter, hopefully this week. Mary said there are funds set aside for professional development in each bargaining contract, but only \$3,000 of the \$11,000 available has been used. This suggested to Mary that teachers don’t have the bandwidth to do anything new right now.

Adjournment: Mike adjourned the meeting at 7:40 AM. The next regular board meeting will be January 6, 2021 at 6:45 AM via Zoom.

Submitted by Deborah Gauck, Secretary