

Ellensburg School District Education Foundation
Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 6:45 AM – Zoom

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent: None

Guest Attendance: None

Welcome and Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 6:52.

Approval of December Minutes: Mary moved to approve the December 2, 2020 minutes. Dick seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Dick reported that Madeline deMaintenon returned from maternity leave and completed the September-November financial statements. December activity included adaptive bike and Caring Cupboard expenses. Dick will sign the engagement letter with Grebb, Johnson, Reed & Wachsmith to provide accounting services in 2021. Mary will put the year-end financial statement and a “year at a glance” pie chart on the website.

Update via email after meeting: Assets as of 12/2/20 were:

- General checking: \$35,477
- Storms payment account: \$36,900
- Edward Jones accounts: \$1,418,407
- Net assets, restricted: \$1,435,558
- Net assets, unrestricted: \$55,226
- Total net assets: \$1,490,784

Superintendent’s Report: Jinger said the ESDEF Board is welcome to tour the new elementary school; it is named after Ida Nason Aronica, which honors her, Native American history, and rodeo history in Kittitas County. The District has been focusing on efforts around equity/equal access for ELL/“emerging bilingual” students. It will administer a survey in January about people’s experiences with the District around equity. There is a District team of principals and a School Board member who focus on equity, i.e., what are systemic barriers? how can we address them? how can we be culturally responsive educators? The District may move toward a “unified sports” program in order to involve students with disabilities. Mary will send Jinger a Rodeo Association link with information about Ida Nason Aronica. Mary let Jinger know that District webpages don’t provide updated lists of staff. She asked Jinger if the District could purchase water for students; add ESDEF Board members to the Superintendent’s newsletter; and provide a report on McKinney-Vento and Advanced Placement test data at the next meeting. Michele asked Jinger about COVID vaccinations for staff. Jinger reported that she sent risk tier information to staff and provided tiered data to the Incident Management Team.

Committee Reports/Activities

Caring Cupboard: Mary reported that she has provided winter clothing for some students. 85 “elves” participated in the Giving Tree, providing gifts for 112 students.

Tile Wall: Dick reported that Mary developed and delivered brochures to EHS, so this project is completed.

Youth Awards: Mike reported that paper and website applications are due February 12. A committee is distributing applications to schools and other sites in the county. There will not be an in-person ceremony; instead, awards will be delivered to students’ homes.

Website: Mary updated the Board members page. The Board switched to Stripe credit card processing as Stripe gathers donor addresses.

Strategic Planning Update: Mary summarized the “why/how/what”:

- Why: To provide resources and recognition for all students in an equitable way so that they can reach their full potential.
- How: 1) Recognize and understand the needs of the whole child; 2) Partner with the school district to support their district strategic plan; 3) Partner with the community and district stakeholders to support students; 4) Influence innovation and change; and 5) Encourage and support post-secondary education and training.
- What: Mini-grants, Caring Cupboard, scholarship coordination and fair, Youth Awards.

Maureen reminded the Board about the January 15 meeting, in which Gallery One and the Shoemaker Foundation will share overviews of their Board/Foundation, respectively. Maureen will schedule another meeting to develop the Board’s annual plan. Dick asked if the Board should also develop a vision statement and values? Or just add why, how, what to the strategic plan? Maureen suggested that the Board discuss this in the first half hour of its January 15 meeting.

Old Business

NSFA Conference Attendees: Maureen registered to attend this conference.

Newsletter: Mary is working on the newsletter.

Solicitation Letter: Cathy Bambrick suggested some changes to Lowell’s letter. Maureen will send both drafts to the Board. Once approved, the letter will be sent by mail. Mary will send a donor distribution list to the Board to review addresses; and will order more letterhead.

Yard Signs: No report.

New Business

Facebook: Mary asked if the Board could brainstorm ideas for Tara to post on Facebook. Suggestions included: why/how/what statements, solicitation letter, Youth Awards application, unified scholarship application, Caring Cupboard, mini-grant application, and pictures of mini-grant projects.

Other: Maureen announced a Humanities WA Speakers Bureau webinar entitled “Why are all the Black kids sitting in the principal’s office?” on February 24. Maureen will send a calendar invitation; the weblink is <https://cwu.libcal.com/event/7406217>. Lowell suggested that there is an increasing need for the Board to have an overall communications plan.

Adjournment: Mike adjourned the meeting at 7:51. The next regular board meeting will be February 3, 2021 at 6:45 AM via Zoom.

Submitted by Deborah Gauck, Secretary