

**Ellensburg School District Education Foundation**  
Board Meeting - Wednesday, May 5th, 2021, 6:45 AM – Zoom

**Board Members Present:**

Michele Cawley	Jinger Haberer	Maureen Rust
Deborah Gauck	Mike McCloskey	Dick Wedin
Mary Gordon	Lowell Murphree	
	Brandon Robertson	

**Board Members Excused:**

**Board Members Absent:** Dan Shissler, Tara Brown

**Guest Attendance:** None

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Maureen called the meeting to order at 6:48 AM.

**Approval of March Minutes and Planning Meeting (2/24) Minutes:** Mike approved, Mary second. All Accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dick reported that Grebb, Johnson, Reed & Wachsmith prepared the April 2020 and 2021 financial statements. Assets as of April 30, 2021 were:

- General checking: \$41,517
- Storms payment account: \$66,900
- Edward Jones accounts: \$1,471,466
- Net assets, restricted: \$1,515,542
- Net assets, unrestricted: \$64,341
- Total net assets: \$1,579,883

Anonymous donor provided \$2,500 in stock to the Endowment account. Also received approximately \$10,000 from Bettas family to continue to support scholarship. Working with Jeff Slothower to draw up paperwork for money to go to specific account, and not just foundation. \$11,275 raised from solicitation letter. Received \$100 through stripe, but it came in as general funds unrestricted. Transferring 10% or \$1,275 to endowment for annual contribution.

**Superintendent's 5 Minute Update:** Jinger has been visiting schools, kids back to 5 days a week schedule. Hailey Neboychek is working with high school to do fun activities for the students. Staff doing amazing with making experience special for kids. Looking forward to in-person graduation ceremony at the high school football stadium. Biggest topic has been transportation. District has completed 5 listening sessions with parents at schools and received written feedback. Eric Engle is working with the transportation software company, boundaries are being discussed to help with this. Jinger should know today if that is feasible. She mentioned the district might have to do something different due to Ida opening, and renovations at Lincoln. Many moving pieces, discussing a committee, and including parents continues to be an important part. Transfer system is still possible, but additional drivers are needed and there has been a new hire there. Bond projects are doing great, and on May 17,18, and 19th tours of the elementary school. Increasing mental health supports, looking to hire

family liaisons, specifically Spanish speakers for the ESL students. Jinger has been happy that in spite of the pandemic, the district is still making great progress. Deb commented about her experience with walking-school bus in Australia. This model was great in relieving the need for transportation. Many additional benefits. Mary commented that her past experience on boundary changes is tough on families. Lowell presented question of what percentage of teachers are vaccinated? Jinger replied about a month ago the numbers were roughly 65-68%. Michele commented that she heard 75% at one point. Reminded we cannot ask this question. Lowell asked on vaccination efforts at school? Jinger replied they tried, but there was not a good turnout. Said there had been letters to the district in their frustrations that vaccinations shouldn't be pushed by school. Jinger commented that this was just a partnership, and it took place last week. Michele said Yakima has been working on a similar process, but it has been more community driven.

### **Activities Updates**

**Caring Cupboard:** Mary reported an active month. Maureen helped out while she was out of town. High school student got a job and needed a uniform. Gay Ott called and needed help for a senior student in a wheelchair, and Gay needed help for a photo of student who went through the choir program. Couple other seniors who have not received pictures, Caron Van Orman helped to get the photo taken. Dropped off backpack, as students come back, there will be more needs that may come up because they are not prepared. Requests are down for the year, and no glasses requested this year. Caring Cupboard hasn't spent much this year, as compared to past years.

**Youth Awards:** Mike reported the celebration was last night. Awarded students their plaques at their homes. Awards were presented in Cle Elum and Easton, with Kittitas receiving awards last night. Mike has hopes to continue the program next year. Maureen asked how many awards were given out, and Mike replied that there was approximately a dozen.

**Website:** Mary reports nothing new with the website. All caring cupboard expenses are updated on the website. There is a cost of 12.50/month for the website to be kept up to date. This is worth the costs since we often were out of date.

**Scholarships:** Mike reported they were due April 15th. Down to only 20 applicants, from last year at 35. High quality applicants. Young lady who's application did not get submitted last year, was included this year. We did have a homeschool student apply, and a note was made that she was not an Ellensburg Graduate. This was done to provide notice to scholarships that may require the applicant recipient to be an Ellensburg High graduate. Due June 1st.

**Nominations:** Brandon reported that he has reached out to Tara, but has not heard a response. He believes the board should complete the application, matrix, and identification process of what the board needs before recruiting additional members. Maureen agreed and reviewed our current board members and that we are under the bylaw number of 13 filled positions. Dick is going to attend the student leadership on the board. Dick also reminded that Dan has been participating as a liaison, not necessarily to be a board member. He is currently listed as a board member. Recommended updating bylaws to include student director language and school board member language. Maureen also commented about how the bylaws have additional language about no meetings during summer. Deb had a comment about membership; Kittitas county created a leadership advisory board, which has a mentorship/leadership group with

youth services. With these students, they are looking to have students participate in community boards. Currently 2 student representatives on the school board.

### **Strategic Planning Update:**

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Assess and Align:** Maureen reported working with Jinger. Jinger has identified potential opportunities to support the district: early learning literacy, additional resources to improve diversity, nature into the classroom, and potentially funding some of the Pacific Education Institute report, which is environmental. Dick brought up the opportunity to partner with KEEN and the school district, funding or otherwise. Jinger reported that KEEN and PEI could provide great partners in these spaces, as nonprofits. Jinger also reported opportunities for the student senate, which gets involved with the legislature and the process. Dick added an additional opportunity with 4-H, Know your Government. Michele added that the program teaches about the Court system as well. Britney Pearson would be a contact person. Lowell added the Allutant could be a great resource. Maureen added updates on mini-grants and how the Foundation can help assist the short fall in the district.

**Fundraising Priorities:** No Report

**Board/Professional Development:** Mike, Maureen, Michele created board matrix and application. Mary helped in formatting the documents. On May 19 there will be a meeting for how to fill out the matrix. The committee is making progress.

**Community Engagement/Communication Plan:** Lowell has a draft of the communication plan. Michele is helping, but has not finalized anything. This could take some time, and there will be different elements. Effort might require additional time at a future meeting to review. One requirement will be the development of content. This will probably include a template to help, but this will include Facebook, print media, etc. The plan will also identify the priorities. This will require leadership in the areas of content creation and participation to complete. Maureen commented this will probably have to be a separate meeting.

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

Maureen reminded us that on May 18th, 10:00-11:00, Dick is attending a session on student participation foundation boards meeting. An additional reminder and invite will be emailed out to the board.

Maureen also reported due to low attendance of school representatives at annual meeting, we may want to discuss holding the meeting in the afternoon. Mike believes there are several factors that may have contributed to this, but we can continue discussion.

In taking on President role, Maureen commented that a student board member, development of tech/trade scholarship or focus, development of community volunteers, and a paid staff member are where she will be focusing her year. Dick mentioned an opportunity to partner with Dentists and dental hygiene. Maureen commented this is a great idea, and she has also been thinking of local businesses that may want to partner with us.

Need to set planning dates for annual meeting and fundraising retreat. In the bylaws, there is a statement we do not meet during the summer. However, there is probably a need to change this to allow a meeting in July and August. Doodle poll will be sent to figure out a schedule. Michele mentioned caution on doing too many meetings. Mike reminded the board that the load now may be higher due to the frameworks we are trying to implement and get in place, but once we have the foundation framework set the load should become lighter.

Dick made a request for strategic plan on a spreadsheet. He has not been able to print it out. He does have a draft, but it is dated July 2020. Looking for an 8x11 document.

**Adjournment:** Maureen adjourned the meeting at 7:47 AM. The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 2 at 6:45 AM via Zoom.

Submitted by Brandon Robertson, May Note Secretary