

Ellensburg School District Education Foundation

Board Meeting - Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 5:15 P.M. – MMS and Zoom

Board Members Present:

Michele Cawley - Zoom Jinger Haberer- Zoom	Mike McCloskey Lowell Murphree – Zoom Maureen Rust	Dick Wedin Jason White
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Board Members Absent: Mary Gordon

Guest Attendance: Brandon Robertson

Welcome and Call to Order: Maureen called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Approval of February minutes:

Approval of February 2022 minutes: Dick moved to approve the January minutes. Maureen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Resignation: Cathy Bambrick has taken on a new position and the time commitment to ESDEF didn't work. We accepted her resignation with regret.

New Member Nomination: Upon a motion by Dick and a second by Maureen, Jenny Carkner was accepted as a new member to the board. The motion passed unanimously. She will be invited to the April meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Due to this meeting being the first day of the month, last month's financial report isn't available yet. We have had a little bit of income. \$38679 checking, \$44775 storms payment, \$1553544 assets \$1491047 restricted \$62497 unrestricted. \$3900 in donations from eleven donors. Down on sponsorships. Check sent off for liability insurance. Dick will forward the February financial report when available.

ESDEF Investment Updates: Brandon Robertson, our Investments Manager, shared the investment policy as well as the portfolio objective. The expected range of returns in any one year is -12%-21%. Our accounts include the Smithson, Storms, and Bettas scholarships. We are listed as a moderate risk. Because we are a moderate risk investment, our highs and lows will be less than the stock market in general. Historically, our investments have had 25 calendar years of positive returns, and 6 years of negative returns. Brandon reported that even though inflation was up 7.28%, our investments were at 9.17%. We continue to do very well with our Storms Scholarship account. Brandon will send a pdf copy of the reports for all on the board to see. Brandon and Dick review the policy approximately annually as required by the policy. Fee is 1% to Edward Jones. We will review summary of costs each January. Dick reminded us that we also have the Wahle Scholarship money invested through David Fiske's Edward Jones.

Superintendent's Update: Jinger reported on the following topics:

- Jason shared that the board interviewed 4 candidates (5 applied) for the school board replacement. The board will vote on the selected person at their March 9 meeting.

- Jinger reported that she met with the District Learning Improvement Team and was pleased with the progress of the group's work over the last three years. She was especially pleased with the focus on the multilingual learners and Professional Learning Communities. The district has hired Solution Tree to assist with strengthening the Professional Learning Communities. This year, the district is working on essential learning standards. Next year, the focus will be on common assessments. She believes that once these are in place, the workload on teachers will be reduced.
- She also reported that after consultation from the County Health Department, the plan is to drop the mask requirement on March 12. She is expecting some revisions about contract tracing and other mitigations to be announced soon.
- Jinger reported about the adoption of attendance zones, which will be put into place at the start of the 2022-23 school year. A plan is in the works about how staff will move to the various schools and is expected to be decided soon. Matt Cziske created a website where parents can easily look up to see what school they will be assigned to. There is also a transfer process. Transportation is now working on redesigning their routing to support this change.
- She reported on the passage of the EPL and Tech Levies. Without the passage, the district would have had to reduce the budget by \$3,000,000. She shared that next year is a gap year, where the district will not receive levy funds until January 2023. McLeary repercussions include that we lost our staff mix factor. The state sends about \$67,000 per teacher, but the average teacher salary in Ellensburg is \$74,000. The state requirement to move to the SEBB insurance program has been costly. "Luckily", COVID helped us reduce many costs so the reductions are less than expected. Our district chose to keep our classified employees employed during the lockdown. Ellensburg SD is down about 200 students (as are many other districts nationwide). With \$8800 per student received from the state, the loss of 200 students is significant. We were able to hire mental health, health professionals, and family liaisons with ESSER funds. Those funds will run out at the end of next year and decisions will have to be made about those positions. Money was also saved by not replacing some staff through attrition. The district is experiencing some increased enrollment, and some parents are planning to send their kids back once the masking mandate is removed. There have been some parent concerns about Second Step (the social emotional learning [SEL] curriculum). SEL is required by the state. (Michele offered to meet with the parents as well). Jinger shared that two major bills are being considered by the legislature which could send some additional funds to the district as a part of enrollment stabilization. Another bill being considered would send many eastern Washington districts zero. Prototypical model also being looked at to add nursing and counselors. These decisions due by March 10.
- Jinger met with the librarians and will meet again after March 10. After two years, the district will consider reinstating librarians in some format. Stakeholders will be gathered to decide how we might use the library spaces. Maureen has more questions and will meet with Jinger about what will happen to the libraries during these next two years. She reported that elementary libraries are also being considered for a change in model.

Activities Updates

Caring Cupboard: Mary was absent, so no report.

Scholarships: Mike reported that the Unified Scholarship is live. Students have to submit their applications by April 15. Mike will deliver applications to the sponsors within about a week after.

Website: Mary was absent, so no report.

Youth Awards: Mike reported that a group of 10 people met to review the nominations for the Kittitas County Youth Awards. Winners have been selected. All nominees will be honored on-stage on Monday, March 28 at 6:30 pm. All are invited.

Board Recruitment Update: Maureen spoke with one person who declined, but would love to help with our fundraiser.

Old Business

Fundraiser: Dick reported that \$3900 has been received to date.

Learning Enhancement Awards: Maureen will work with Mary to do plaques and website notices.

New Business

April meeting will be our annual meeting.

Adjournment: Maureen adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in April at a date and time TBA. Maureen will reserve the room at the Palace.

Rotating secretary for April is Lowell.

Submitted by Mike McCloskey, Rotating Secretary for March.