

# Ellensburg School District Education Foundation

Board Meeting Minutes • Tuesday, April 8, 2025 • 5:30 p.m.  
Palace Café • Annual Meeting

Board members present: Troy Tornow, Mary Gordon, Michelle Bibich, Dick Wedin, Mike McCloskey

Board members absent: Maureen Rust

Guests: Phil Backlund, Gloria Bugni, Michele Cawley

## OPENING AGENDA ITEMS

- Welcome and Call to Order – Mike
  - The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.
- Approval of March minutes- no minutes available

## MONTHLY REPORTS

- **Treasurer's Report** – Dick dispersed the Annual Report.
  - Our stocks have taken a huge hit with the current tariff chaos
  - Key accomplishments:
    - \$77,310 granted to staff, scholarships, and students
    - We continue to provide cost effective insurance to school groups
    - Held a very successful fundraiser
    - Facilitated a \$20,000 student loan forgiveness grant from a community member to a 1<sup>st</sup> generation teacher

## COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

- **Caring Cupboard** – Mary presented an outline of yearly expenses and students helped since Caring Cupboard began. Goals include extending the reach in the schools and adding more donors. Mary would also like to add hair care to the Caring Cupboard outreach.
- **Fundraiser** – our 2026 fundraiser will be held on Friday, January 30
- **Learning Enhancement Awards**- Michelle: we gifted over \$16,000 in December. Our requests far exceed our funds, and the increased enthusiasm has sparked some good conversations in the district to find other funding solutions for worthwhile projects.
- **Social media** – Marvin: Posts are going well, and he will be encouraging tile wall sales this spring. He will also be sharing posts from Early Learning and other district pages. Photos from the Youth Award ceremony are needed. He will also post about LEA reports and photos we receive.
- **Scholarships** – Mike: we will coordinate 26 scholarships this year on the Unified application. All applications are due April 15 and will be dispersed

to different donors and committees for review. Application arrive both as paper copies and scanned. Payout this year will be over \$58,000.

- **Staff Appreciation** – Maureen continues to do a great job collaborating with parent groups to financially support their efforts to thank the staff
- **Youth Awards** – Mike: the March 31, 2025 event showcased 69 students in the greater Kittitas Valley. Everything went well and the student accomplishments were inspiring. Mike will work on getting the application created on a Google Doc for next year to expedite the application process.

### **Guest Presentations**

- **Early Learning Coalition** – Michele Cawley presented a current book (funded from a LEA grant) they are distributing to all pre-school and kindergarten students to give them a consistent vocabulary around social emotional needs and regulation. The books are not available in Spanish, but ELC provides a synopsis inside the front cover in both English and Spanish. Their family events continue to be successful, and they have a strong board with many supporting community agencies attending their meetings. They anticipate loss in federal funding with the current administration but have positioned themselves well for the next few years. Michele thanked ESDEF for their funding of the many books and projects for ELC.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Fundraiser:** save the date for Friday, January 30, 2026
- **Zeffy and GiveButter:** Mary explained the format for these two platforms, allowing donors to give their full donation to us and voluntarily support the platform. Mary will do more research and work with Dick on the solution.
- **Election of Officers:** the following officers were unanimously elected for the coming year: Maureen Rust, President; Marvin Douvier, Vice-President; Mary Gordon, Secretary; and Dick Wedin, Treasurer.

**New Board Members:** Phil Backlund, Gloria Bugni, Heather Burfiend, Missy Davis and Kelly Rotter have all expressed interest. Tabled until May.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm. Dinner was served and the conversation was plentiful.

**Next meeting: May 6, 2025, Morgan Principal's Office, 5:15 pm**