

Ellensburg School District Education Foundation

Board Meeting Minutes • Tuesday, March 4 • 5:15 p.m.

MMS Principal's Office

Attending: Dick Wedin, Mike McCloskey, Maureen Rust, Michelle Bibich, Troy Turnow, Marvin Duvier-Johnston

Absent: Mary Gordon

Guests: Phil Backlund, Gloria Bugni, Erica Ingraham, Counselor at Valley View Elementary School

OPENING AGENDA ITEMS

- Welcome and Call to Order – Mike called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
- Approval of February minutes – it was noted the heading needed correction. Dick moved to approve the minutes once that correction is made. Marvin seconded; motion passed.

LEA GRANT WINNER REPORT

- Erica Ingraham thanked the board for the 2025 grant which has allowed her to purchase new kits to expand the robotics club program at Valley View to 2nd and 3rd graders. The after-school club is free and accessible to all students. Erica noted the club now serves 40 students and will be expanded next year. A parent assists with coding. More girls are joining the club. Multi-faceted life skills are acquired, including collaboration and team building. When the club is over, Erica will make the standards aligning kits available for classroom use. Erica shared photographs of the students using the kits and will provide a PowerPoint slide show.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- Treasurer's Report – Dick sent out financial reports prior to the meeting. The 2025 Super Bowl Warm Up fundraiser grossed \$35325. The BMO account will be closed soon with all holdings at Cashmere Bank and Edward Jones. He circulated a letter from community member Carolyn Miller who donated \$5,000 to Mike's stage fund appeal.
- Superintendent's Update – Troy asked if the ESDEF board prefers March 19 or April 16 to make a presentation at the Board of Ed meeting. Mike will do the presentation at the March 19 meeting (5:30 p.m.). School administration is keeping an eye on the state legislature in light of the state deficit and noted inflationary factors such as natural gas and insurance. Local levies should not be relied on to make up the difference. ESD has a high number of veteran staff resulting in high salary costs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIVITIES

- Board recruitment- Mike welcomed prospective board members Phil and Gloria to the meeting and noted Heather Burfiend is also interested. Mike will send links to board membership information to all prospects. Potential projects new board members could work on include a newsletter and fundraising. Gloria noted she would like to be more involved with Caring Cupboard. Recruitment and succession planning is key as several members may be considering stepping off the board in the next few years.
- Caring Cupboard – no report
- Facebook – Marvin will feature the tile wall and the youth awards in upcoming posts
- Fundraiser – follow up discussion below
- Learning Enhancement Awards- no report
- Scholarships – Mike noted there will be two new scholarships from the Class of '60 and the Class of '65 (effective in 2026)
- Staff Appreciation – Maureen will reach out to the parent groups to partner on spring appreciation efforts

- Tile Wall - Dick
- Website – Mary is seeking someone to take on more of the website responsibilities; Mike offered to help out
- Youth Awards – Mike reported the award winners have been chosen and encourages all to attend the ceremony on March 31 at the performing arts center, Morgan. The event begins at 6:30; with set up starting around 5.

OLD BUSINESS

- Annual Meeting: April 8, 5:30 p.m., Palace Cafe
 - Agenda Items
 - Annual report (Dick)
 - Presentations from LEA winners
 - Elections
 - Maureen – President
 - Marvin – VP
 - Mary – Secretary
 - Dick – Treasurer
 - Invites: Maureen will send invitations to the BoE, school principals, and parent groups who will give brief reports on their activities. LEA winners too?
- Superbowl Debrief
 - Mike read an email from Mary with observations and ideas.
 - The board agreed to continue with the Super Bowl Warm Up due to its financial success and community popularity. Gloria advised to not cut corners on the fundraiser and to maintain its current high level of planning.
 - Action items for next year:
 - Take more off Mary's plate (the task sheets she created this year provide a blueprint)
 - Increase price of tickets to \$1, don't put them in packets, adjust tickets required for certain games (wine walk)
 - Keep up momentum of staff donations to the auction
 - Debbie Rowden has offered to launder tablecloths next year
 - Recommendations: Keep this fundraiser but increase delegation of tasks to provide Mary with relief

NEW BUSINESS

- Chamber Awards are being held March 20, and the foundation is nominated for the first time. Dick will attend.

CONCLUSION

- For the Good of the Order
- Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Next meeting: April 8, 2025, Palace Café, 5:15 pm

Michelle Bibich • Marvin Douvier • Mary Gordon • Mike McCloskey • Maureen Rust • Troy Tornow • Dick Wedin
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