

# Ellensburg School District Education Foundation

Annual Meeting Minutes • Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 • 5:15 p.m.  
Ellensburg Pasta Company

**ESDEF Board Present:** Mary Gordon, President; Dick Wedin, Treasurer; Mike McCloskey, Secretary; Michelle Bibich, Maureen Rust

**Others Present:** Kara McKenzie, Joanne Duncan, Rhonda Schmidt, Jen Lyons, Tor Blaisdell, Jenny Samples, Cathy Idler, Effie Martinson

- Call to Order – Mary
- Approval of March minutes- Upon a motion by Dick, and a second by Maureen minutes approved as printed
- Treasurer’s Report –Dick shared an annual summary which is attached to the minutes.
- Superintendent’s Update – Jinger
- School Board Update- new liaison?
- Guest reports
  - Choice Schools - Rhonda Schmidt, Principal
    1. Recruiting for Big Picture Learning - Replacing Excel
    2. Ellensburg Home Connection starting up - Expect 30 students
    3. Virtual Academy - Grades 6-12. Currently 60 students. Will expand down to 3rd grade next year.
  - Band - Tor Blaisdell
    1. Received LEA grant from ESDEF to purchase a video camera. Has been used successfully so far for concerts, rehearsals, and student learning.
  - Early Learning Center- Cathy Idler and Effie Martinson
    1. Received several LEA grants. Been able to create home kits which have been well-received to increased play-based learning
    2. Don’t have a PTA, so very appreciative of ESDEF support
    3. Access Caring Cupboard quite a bit
    4. 71 students currently enrolled. 2 full time teachers, one part time, several paras
  - Ida Nason Aronica - JoAnne Duncan, Principal
    1. Excited for Skydome Planetarium grant
    2. Appreciative of birthday books grant
    3. Prior to Ida opening, the other three elementary parent groups each donated \$5000 to get Ida’s parent group going
    4. Received grant from OSPI for outdoor learning. Working to create gardens and benches in courtyard
    5. Joanne shared a highlight of her career in the opening ceremony for Ida with many indigenous people present to celebrate.
    6. PTO held several family events
    7. “Big” event will be annual Sunflower Festival
    8. School numbers are growing!
  - Morgan Middle School - Michelle Bibich, Principal
    1. Jenny Samples - Parent group - Small, but working hard to get momentum going.
    2. 5K - April 29
    3. Largest enrollment ever - 794 students as of today
    4. Finally feel like we have come out of pandemic mode
    5. Family engagement is a big focus for us going forward

- 6. Now 45%+ poverty level. Staff will be studying and working on ways to support students in poverty
    - 7. San Juan trip coming up next week. This will be the last year due to transportation costs
  - o Valley View Parent Group - Valley View PTA
    - 1. Having a hard time getting people involved
    - 2. Did well on annual fundraiser
    - 3. Getting traditional events going again
  - o Mt Stuart Parent Group- Jen Lyons
    - 1. Getting some new people and energy involved
    - 2. Doing some fun evening activities
    - 3. Planning staff appreciation
    - 4. Sad to lose Kathi Keefer
    - 5. Dick reminded them that we have some money dedicated to the nature area
  - o Orchestra - Kara McKenzie
    - 1. 115 students at all 3 grade levels
    - 2. Focus on enrichment and cohesion to the students
    - 3. Helping students with fees and travel expenses to competitions
    - 4. Attended Yakima Symphony Orchestra
    - 5. Funding from donations, and Cornerstone Takeover
    - 6. Going to give two scholarships this year for the first time
    - 7. Also scholarships for summer strings camp
- LEA Award Application- discussion and feedback from applicants
  - o Tor asked what happens if something comes up off cycle. Yes, it is possible if an unexpected opportunity arises
  - o Michelle mentioned that principals will make a point of advertising in May
  - o Sometimes difficult to front fund an expensive item and wait for reimbursement. Michelle indicated that most of the time, buildings can pay, then get reimbursed.
  - o Discussion about equity
- Committee Reports/Activities
  - o Board recruitment - Ongoing, but difficult to find willing volunteers
  - o Caring Cupboard - Mary explained how Caring Cupboard works. Funded through donations. Requests from counselors, principals, nurses to purchase things for kids to be successful at school.
  - o Facebook- If you have ideas for posts, or tag us in a post, please share!
  - o Fundraiser- retreat August 5<sup>th</sup>
  - o Learning Enhancement Awards- discuss ideas at retreat on July 8<sup>th</sup>
  - o Scholarships – Mike shared about the Unified Scholarship program.
  - o Staff Appreciation – Maureen shared that during and post-COVID, we wanted to express our appreciation to staff and teachers. First year, very labor-intensive and expensive. Looking for ideas to honor staff. We are looking to partner with parent groups to do this in the future. Jen suggested we give parent groups a dollar amount, so they can work with us!
  - o Website – Mary explained about how our organization is very transparent, and all information can be found on our website!
  - o Youth Awards – Mike explained about the Youth Awards and hopes for more nominations!
- Old Business
  - o Board officer elections
    - President, Mike
    - VP -Mary
    - Secretary - Maureen
    - Treasurer - Dick
    - Mary moved, Michelle seconded. New board elected.

- o Operations retreat, Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 8 am - noon, Anderson Conference Center
- o Fundraising retreat, Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 8 am - noon, Anderson Conference Center
- New Business
  - o PR opportunity via Kirk Holmes- May meeting
- For the Good of the Order
- Adjournment

**Next meeting: May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, Morgan Middle School, 5:15 pm**

# Ellensburg School District Education Foundation 2022 Annual Report Summary April 4, 2023

**Education Foundation Metrics:** (The following are values detailed in the Foundation's December 31, 2022, financial report.)

1. Total Assets	\$1,392,558
Net Assets Restricted:	\$1,331,428
Net Assets Unrestricted:	\$61,131
2. Statement of Activity – Unrestricted Funds:	
Cash Receipts	\$12,017
Cash Disbursements	\$9,873
Investment Income (Expenses):	(\$5,262)
3. Statement of Activity – Restricted Funds:	
Cash Receipts	\$39,550
Cash Disbursements	\$41,884
Investment Income (Expenses)	(\$218,220)

## **Education Foundation Purpose Statement:**

The purposes of the Ellensburg School District Education Foundation are to:

- (1) promote educational programs for the Ellensburg School District No. 401, Ellensburg, Washington;
- (2) provide a committee to review program ideas and to make grants to the schools, departments, staff, individual students and student groups in furtherance of the purposes of the Ellensburg School District;
- (3) raise funds to meet the above objectives through donations from individuals, corporations and foundations as well as a through sponsorship of fundraising events;
- (4) act as a fiscal agent for donors who wish to sponsor projects, grants, and scholarships for the schools, staff, and students;
- (5) establish endowment funds on such terms and conditions as established by the Board of Directors of the Ellensburg School District Education Foundation and as reflected, as needed, by these Bylaws, as amended from time to time; and
- (6) engage in any and all other lawful endeavors of a non-profit corporation.

## **Education Foundation Why Statement:**

The Foundation provides resources and recognition for all students in an equitable way so they can reach their full potential.

## **Education Foundation Organization Summary:**

Launched in the fall of 2001, the Ellensburg School District Education Foundation began when a group of community leaders recognized that not all the growing challenges in

the public school system could be met through traditional funding sources. The Foundation's goal is to enhance programs, equipment and services available to the Ellensburg public school students and staff.

Schools, departments, student and parent groups, faculty and administrators are encouraged to develop innovative programs and projects for their schools and submit them to the Foundation for their funding consideration. To qualify, it must be shown that the project cannot be funded through traditional means.

The Foundation also assists individuals and organizations to create, and manage family and organization sponsored scholarships. In addition, the ESDEF coordinates all EHS senior scholarships presented through the Unified Scholarship Project. We also assist district parent groups in purchasing reasonable liability insurance through a liability insurance pool managed by the Foundation and an insurance broker.

The Foundation Board is comprised of nine community volunteers who manage and carry out the functions and purposes of the Foundation. The Foundation is a 501 c (3), nonprofit organization by the Internal Revenue Service and all donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. The Foundation's EIN number is: 91-216338.

### **Education Foundation Key Accomplishments in 2022:**

- Spent a total of \$46,835 funding staff and students in the Ellensburg School District.
- Spent \$4,610 for Academic Support (Learning Enhancement Awards)
- Spent \$4,874 for Basic Student Needs (Caring Cupboard)
- Spent \$35,262 for Scholarships for Graduating Seniors
- Provided liability Insurance through the Foundation Liability Insurance Pool for ten parent groups and organizations.

### **Education Foundation Key Projects & Events:**

- Resurrected the Super Bowl Warm Up fundraiser for the Foundation after a two-year absence due to Covid Pandemic in the fall of 2022.
- Held a very successful Super Bowl Warm Up fundraiser on February 10, 2023, raising a little over \$29,000 to support students and staff in the Ellensburg School District.
- Awarded over \$8,700 in Learning Enhancement Awards in December of 2022.
- Recognized over 45 youths at the County Youth Awards event in the spring of 2022 sponsored by the Foundation and Rodeo City Kiwanis.

### **Education Foundation Goals:**

- Recruit new Foundation Board members to bring the Board up to 15 or more.
- Increase the sales of the number of Legacy Tile Wall tiles that recognize students, staff, and community members/organizations and businesses at Ellensburg High School.

### **Education Foundation Contacts:**

- Visit the Foundation's website at [www.ESDEF.net](http://www.ESDEF.net) for all the detailed information concerning the Ellensburg School District Education Foundation.
- You may email the Foundation at: [ellensburgedfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ellensburgedfoundation@gmail.com)
- Foundation's mailing address: PO Box 464, Ellensburg, WA 98926