

**THOMPSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 4:19 p.m. Board members in attendance were Kim Akeley-Charron, Bill Bundy, Blas Estrada, Danielle Feeney, Cody Fullmer, Brandy Grieves, Lauren Haug, Pam Howard, Trish Malik, Mark Miller, Rhett Polka, Kathie Rechkemmer, Marc Schaffer and John Stewart. Debbie Wright was also in attendance. Board members unable to attend were Brian Jacobson and Eric Weedin.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Consent Agenda—consisting of the August 18 board meeting minutes and the August First National Bank Investment Management Account statement—was approved.

Marc provided a Thompson School District community update with a PowerPoint presentation. He will be giving this presentation to Rotary clubs, chambers of commerce, the city, etc. TSD has over 15,000 students and approximately 2,100 staff members. This school year was launched virtually. TSD will be returning to in-person learning earlier than expected due to a 48-hour turnaround time for COVID-19 test results and a less than 3.5% positivity rate for COVID-19 in the county. Districts around TSD have opened and are doing a good job, even though there has been some quarantining. With cold and flu season approaching, this is as good as it's going to get for a while. Safety mechanisms will be in place for in-person learning such as face masks, 3-6 foot social distancing, students bringing their own water bottles, etc. Start dates are staggered by grade level. PreK-5 students will attend school five days a week. Grades 6-12 will follow a hybrid model with students split into Groups A and B, each attending two days a week and all remote on Wednesdays. Family members will be on the same schedule, even with students at different levels. Two Larimer County employees are assigned to TSD for contact tracing as necessary. The PowerPoint presentation included photos of some of the completed 2018 bond projects. The district is working on limited, cohorted tours of the Thompson Career Campus/Ferguson High School building as well as a groundbreaking and video with key partners.

Cody asked about the loss of revenue due to lower student enrollment in TSD. Marc explained that the Colorado Department of Education allows five-year averaging of enrollment numbers to lessen the financial impact. Also, TSD had some cost savings due to schools closing in March, such as transportation, etc. Cody also asked about staffing this year with older teachers that may be concerned about getting COVID-19. TSD's Human Resources department established a process for staff with concerns that follows federal guidelines. Over 100 staff have applied for variances and all were either granted exemptions, reassigned or given other roles in TSD. With school reopening, additional concerns will be handled on a case-by-case basis by HR.

Kim reported that she toured the Thompson Career Campus, and it is stunning. It is everything we hoped it would be and more. Kim asked Marc if there is a concern that schools will close when COVID-19 and the flu converge. He replied that we just don't

know what will happen. Metrics have been developed with decision points for classroom, school and district closures. TSD will rely on the science, which has to do with the COVID-19 positivity rate in the county. The board thanked Marc for sharing the TSD update.

Kim went over the Fundraising Goal Report for August. General Unrestricted income was less than in July. Some lingering funds came in for Help Kids Succeed. There was not much income in the Managed Funds. When comparing where we are month by month with General Unrestricted, we are in pretty decent shape—the only August with higher numbers was last year when we were getting big sponsorships for the Education is Everyone’s Business event; one year had zero income. We didn’t land on specific fundraising goals at our last board meeting. Kim looked at how things are different this year and put in numbers she feels are realistic right now. She lowered General Unrestricted’s goal by \$13,000 and lowered the Managed Funds’ goal since we don’t know what will happen with them.

Kim reviewed the Summary of Transactions. The Elementary Instrumental Music Fund spent almost \$10,000 for Music K-8 subscriptions for the elementary music teachers and recorders for all 4th graders. Next month, we will see supply purchases for elementary student music kits. We paid out all six Great Idea Grants. We received a \$1,750 grant for Help Kids Succeed from Loveland Rotary Club Foundation’s COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund. A Thompson Valley High School parent concerned about teacher safety and well-being is passing a \$10,000 grant through TEF for TVHS. The parent and principal are working on ways to provide amenities for the teacher lounge, individual coffees, personal protective equipment, etc.

Kim provided updates to her Executive Director Report. She was able to secure a contract with Comcast to provide internet service to families that don’t currently have it. For years, one of our challenges has been connectivity at Lago Vista Mobile Home Park, which had none. Comcast identified the problem, is getting it solved and will provide service there. The elementary music teachers are coming together to assemble music kits for students, which will be used throughout the school year because students cannot share items. The kits include dowels for rhythm/drum sticks, blue buckets for 5th graders, egg shakers or bean bags for grades 1-3, and bags to put the items in. Kim spent the last two days in a fundraising conference, which was held virtually. She is gaining new knowledge around doing a virtual/hybrid event. One perk right now is conferences are free—you just log on. Trish asked how to recommend families for Comcast service. Families must work with the district’s Innovative Technology Services department to get a code. The families then set up services with Comcast, and TEF gets billed for the codes being used. We have 80 codes available. The cost is being covered by our TSD Emergency Relief Fund. ITS will stay on top of anyone leaving the district so their code can be passed on to someone else. TEF is providing coverage through the end of May.

The Halloween event is moving forward. It is being billed as “NoCo's Greatest Drive-Thru Trick-or-Treat Experience.” The synergy since the last meeting, when Christine Forster reached out to the community, has increased. The Ranch wanted to be involved and is essentially giving us the space for 2,000 cars to participate over five hours. The

Ranch is covering all physical aspects for that to happen. It's turning into a big deal and people are excited about it. It will be a reverse parade with Halloween scenes and vendors/sponsors to engage with. Families will preregister for a half-hour window and will drive through with someone walking in front of them. They will get prewrapped candy as they drive through the vignettes with their windows down and a piece of paper with the number of kids in each car so vendors know how much candy to give. This is part of a bigger amount of activities happening around the city. Kim will focus on getting sponsors and vendors for the event. She asked that board members consider being a sponsor or share the opportunity with people in their network. Sponsors have the option of having an onsite booth, but don't need to. Kim is also working with schools to see if they want to do scenes or music. We will provide a preregistration code for TSD families to use before registration opens to the public. The Ranch is limited to 175 people onsite at one time.

The board held a discussion about assisting with COVID-19 needs at the schools. It's hard to know what schools need as they are focusing on daily changes right now and pivoting with in-person learning starting back up. Ideas included: individual bins for students; printed materials for second semester; large canopies to provide shade in outdoor areas; iCloths to disinfect iPads; and cameras with internal lights for virtual teaching. The board then talked about how to allocate money to the schools for their needs. Concerns included: needs changing daily and buying items that won't be needed down the road; being able to source the needed items; different needs at different schools; providing for both short-term and long-term needs; and predicting the timeframe it takes to solve issues (e.g., internet connectivity). Allocating money to each school was discussed. Kim suggested using Founders Grants for schools that identify a unique need this year. John just worked on Rotary grants and volunteered to help set up a TEF grant process. Comments included: we have the Founders Grant process in place and could just change the guidelines this year; schools could do a simple ask with specifics that are not tied to the metrics we typically ask for; we could split a specific amount of money between all the schools; some schools have more parent support and less need; different levels might have different needs; and we could determine dollar amounts by the number of students or the schools' free and reduced lunch population without creating another step. The board agreed that support of curriculum is important, that we should engage administrators to determine grant metrics, and that we want to do something for all schools. Kim will focus on these guidelines. Bill suggested she work with John on a simple ask, reach out to principals, and have a process in place by the next board meeting, then the board can evaluate how much to allocate to each school. Kim replied that reaching out to others takes time and she can't guarantee she will have all the needed information by October. Regardless of whether we use a request process or provide direct funding, we won't open Founders Grants on October 1. Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the board put a hold on the start date for Founders Grants this year. Kim thanked the board for a great discussion.

Blas reported the need to recruit board members. Three board members are term limited, two are up for a second term, and Kim Skoric's position is open. Blas asked for volunteers to participate on a recruiting committee. Blas will be on the committee and Danielle, Lauren and John volunteered to be a part of it as well. Kim will send an e-mail

to the committee by the end of the week with the matrix that was used last year and things to think about.

Blas thanked the board for staying a little late to finish the meeting, for the robust discussion and for their time on the board. Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.