

## THOMPSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Kim Akeley-Charron

August 17, 2021

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1. Help Kids Succeed – We stuffed 1700 backpacks with the help of 82+ volunteers. There were some challenges this year, most out of our control. Although our supply vendor typically nails inventory, they sent the wrong backpacks for the secondary students and we had a few nail-biting days waiting to see if they would be delivered on time (arrived packing day morning!). I had a preliminary plan with Impact for Education in Boulder to drive down to pick up some of their backpacks before swapping out our new ones but luckily did not have to do that.

The second challenge was Wednesday morning. After we left for the day on Tuesday, supplies prepped for backpack stuffing, the Loveland High School basketball team came in to the gym and moved everything to different locations and on different tables. The team thought they had the gym reserved although it wasn't on any district calendars. It was a confusing arrival on Wednesday morning as no one at Conrad Ball or in facilities knew who had been in the gym. Once it was determined what happened, Loveland's AD and boys basketball coach sent a letter of apology. Lauren has the letter for your reference at the meeting.

2. Golf Tournament – WOW! I felt this event was a great success and hope those of you who attended will agree. The staff at Mariana Butte was absolutely incredible, both the pros and the restaurant staff. And the My Big Day team really met the needs of a first year event. The Scheer family felt honored and were thrilled. I know we are scheduled to talk about future events at our board planning retreat on September 24. My recommendation will be that we keep this event in future years.
3. Halloween event – We are planning to hold the drive-thru trick or treat experience in the parking lot of the district's administration building. The parking lot and all meeting rooms are reserved for us on October 30. I'm excited about the possibilities of this space and feel it has adequate room for queuing of cars and the event itself. I had a preliminary conversation with the 3 Loveland high school student council advisors about partnering with the students on this event but it seems likely that it won't happen in 2021. I left the door open to the students to participate if the indoor trick or treat/haunted house that they want to resurrect this year has to be canceled due to COVID restrictions.
4. Back2School Bash – A reminder that TEF supported the district back to school celebration for teachers and staff with a \$2500 donation and my time. The event was great with music, lawn games and food trucks. Thanks to the TEF board members who helped out that day. The overall attendance was lower than the TSD committee hoped for but the people who were there were thrilled. It is unknown at this time if there will be a similar or other event in 2022.

5. Final budgets for Help Kids Succeed and the Golf Tournament should be ready for our September board meeting. There are still too many outstanding invoices to provide an accurate amount. I will say we raised over \$30,000 on the golf tournament! Some of that money will be directed to event expenses.
6. Founders grants – traditionally we open these grants on October 1 and they remain open through the end of May the following year. Founders grants are intended for school or district wide opportunities and are awarded up to \$2,000. We fund these from general unrestricted and the board votes on each. We will need to make a final decision (at the board retreat?) on whether to open Founders Grants for the 2021-2022 school year. We did not offer them in 2020-2021 so we could forward support to each school to use as they deemed important. That model felt really positive to me but I would like you to consider the options before we discuss in September.
7. Reminder that I will be on vacation for the rest of August, returning to the office on September 9. Debbie has permission to sign check requests so that TEF business will continue while I'm gone. She will be able to contact me in an emergency but otherwise, I will not be checking email while I'm gone.
8. Our September 21 board meeting will be held at the Thompson Career Campus as the ribbon cutting for the building (rescheduled from 2020 due to COVID) will happen at 5:00. I hope you will each plan to stay for the remarks at 5pm before the ribbon is cut. There will be an open house and tours afterward.
9. We will hold our planning retreat on Friday, September 24 from noon – 4:30pm in the superintendent's conference room at the district building. I will send out a menu for lunch prior to the day. You will discuss the agenda items in the board meeting and I welcome any additions you would like to have. I see this as an opportunity to review the impact of COVID on the past two years and time to dream and plan forward to what the next two years will look like.

