

**THOMPSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 4:22 p.m. Board members in attendance were Kim Akeley-Charron, Brandy Grieves, Lauren Haug, Brian Jacobson, Diane Lapierre, Celeste Smith and Sarah Walgast. Debbie Wright was also in attendance. Board members unable to attend were Paul Baron, Brian Cullins, Blas Estrada, Danielle Feeney, Cody Fullmer, Jason Hatch, Pam Howard, Marc Schaffer and Eric Weedin.

The Consent Agenda—consisting of the August 17 board meeting minutes and the August First National Bank Investment Management Account statement—was tabled until the October board meeting because there was not a quorum of members present.

Lauren welcomed the board to the Ferguson High School/Thompson Career Campus. The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the building, which was canceled last October due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be held at 5 p.m. The board is invited to stay for the ceremony. Kim explained that this site was originally Van Buren Elementary School and was built out with bond money for the relocation of Ferguson High School and to create the Thompson Career Campus.

Kim noted that her Executive Director report and the Summary of Transactions are posted on the website. In August, we received some nice revenue in General Unrestricted from Kaiser Permanente and Comcast sponsorships as well as in the Dr. Stan Scheer Memorial Student Opportunity Fund due to the golf tournament. John Metcalf's annual contract for graphic design work was paid from the TEF Budget. The Resiliency Fund received \$12,000 in Governor's Art Show proceeds from the Thompson Valley Rotary Club. We received a second gift of \$10,000 for Thompson Valley High School from the Mikesh Family Fund – this one is for general school support; the prior gift was to make teachers more comfortable during COVID-19. The Loveland High School Red Wolves Catering and Coffee project received a \$10,000 grant from the OtterCares Foundation. This project also received a TEF Great Idea Grant this year.

Kim passed out paper copies of the budgets for Help Kids Succeed and the Stan Scheer Golf Tournament. The Help Kids Succeed budget includes a comparison from 2013 to present. The amount being paid to EPI for supplies and backpacks is estimated since we have not received a final invoice reflecting the discount we are receiving due to challenges we faced with EPI this year. The budget shows a negative balance, but we have not yet received the Volentine Family Foundation's annual donation of \$5,000. We assembled 1,700 backpacks this year. Our supply list hasn't changed much, but the cost has increased. We will need to make some choices around funding for next year; we either need to raise more money or transfer funds from General Unrestricted. Prior years with negative balances (2013-2016) were backfilled with General Unrestricted funds. Diane asked why we no longer receive assistance from the Salvation Army. Help Kids Succeed was run by multiple agencies, including the Salvation Army, until they changed their missions and TEF took it over. The Salvation Army continued to donate

for a few years until they opened a new office and stopped providing direct support to other organizations.

This was year one for the golf tournament, so the budget is basically reporting out expenses. We paid \$22,995 in expenses and our revenue was \$30,017. We netted over \$7,000, which is solid for a first-year event. The current Scheer fund balance is \$50,282. The budget does not include donations that came in around the same timeframe as the tournament but were not specifically identified for the tournament. We learned a lot about running a golf tournament and found there are things we can do better. Brian pointed out that the golf course rental and fees were one-quarter of our costs. Celeste said she participated in this golf tournament as well as one in Fort Collins and that the staff at Mariana Butte were exceptional—so kind and so helpful to everyone—it was night and day from the Fort Collins event. Kim said we definitely want to continue doing the tournament at Mariana Butte, which was Stan’s favorite golf course.

The Drive-Through Trick or Treat Experience has been set up on Facebook. We received 500 likes in just a couple of days. Information on the event is up on the website as well. We will have 638 slots available over four and a half hours, which will sell out quickly. Tickets go on sale October 15 at 9 a.m. We have some sponsors from our annual sponsorship package, but we need more. Thompson Valley High School students will be helping us out. The other high schools are doing their own events. The Drive-Through Trick-or-Treat Experience is October 30 at the TSD Administration Building from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We will be able to decorate and create a nice, smooth traffic flow. There will be a site visit tomorrow to see if we need a city permit for traffic spillover onto Carlisle Drive.

The topic of Founders Grants versus school awards was tabled until the October board meeting to involve more people in the conversation. Historically, Founders Grants are open October 1 through the second Friday in May. These grants of up to \$2,000 are for school-wide or district-wide projects. Last year, instead of opening the grant applications, we gave each school money in January for general school support. We received a great response from the schools. Now we need to decide what we are going to do this year. Lauren asked the principals in attendance for their feedback. Sarah stated that her school budget shrinks every year, so the gift was very much appreciated. Brandy felt the same and said she could reach out to other middle school principals to see what they thought if we’d like. Even though the general school support was meant to be a one-time thing, Brian is in favor of doing it again. Kim agreed; it felt right last year and would feel right again this year. People are tired and schools need extra dollars barrier free (no grant writing involved). If we go this route, Kim wants to be sure that schools do not count on this as annual income. Lauren suggested having a conversation around Founders Grants in the spring so we can announce their return in 2022-2023, then principals will know we’re not doing one-off awards anymore. We will have a conversation at the October board meeting regarding what we want to do this year and will not make a decision for future years until January or February.

Kim would like the board to create an equity statement for TEF to align with the equity policy adopted by Thompson School District. Thompson was the first school

district to create an equity policy. Kim has talked with TSD's Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Maria Gabriel, and she can come to our November board meeting to talk through what it means, why it is important, and how to go about crafting an equity statement.

Lauren told the board that because of changes to TSD's professional development day on Friday, October 24, the principals on our board will not be able to join us for the TEF board retreat. We do not have as many people attending as we had hoped. We have a couple of options: either reschedule or hold the retreat this Friday and get everyone caught up on the discussions at the October board meeting. We were originally going to meet at the TSD Administration Building, but because we wouldn't be able to socially distance and would have to wear face masks the entire time, we moved it to the Devereaux Room at the Rialto Theater and paid for the room. We are not sure we can transfer that reservation to another date. We originally chose not to do the retreat at a board meeting because we need a significant amount of time for discussions. Brian suggested we reschedule. Lauren suggested scheduling the retreat on the next board meeting date, October 19, and starting earlier in the day. Lauren and Kim will discuss the options and send a communication to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.