THOMPSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:18 p.m. Board members in attendance were Kim Akeley-Charron, Brian Cullins, Blas Estrada, Danielle Feeney, Cody Fullmer, Brandy Grieves, Jason Hatch, Lauren Haug, Brian Jacobson, Diane Lapierre, Marc Schaffer, Celeste Smith, Sarah Walgast and Eric Weedin. Board members unable to attend were Paul Baron, Pam Howard and Mark Miller.

Introductions were made since this was the first in-person meeting held since the COVID-19 pandemic began over a year ago.

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

Kim’s Executive Director report was included in the online board packet. She commented on the positive progression of scholarship dollars awarded each year. Diane mentioned the Governor’s Art Show and Plein Air event and how it benefits TEF. Kim stated that TEF receives one-third of the dollars raised.

We will be filling over 1,700 backpacks with school supplies for our Help Kids Succeed school supply program. The cost will be $30,000. Water bottles will be included in the backpacks since they are required for students. Secondary school students will receive padded backpacks to protect school-issued electronic devices. Kim is thinking about sourcing backpacks with other foundations in the future to lower the cost. The backpacks will be stuffed at Conrad Ball Middle School the week of July 26. Sarah noted that water bottles were a need all year long and asked if there would be extras. Danielle mentioned receiving backpacks and not giving them all out until student needs arise. Eric asked if there were supply chain issues due to COVID; Kim said there were not. Kim is going to work on a volunteer shift schedule and will send it out when it’s available.

Marc provided an update on Thompson School District. None of the five graduation ceremonies in May were delayed. Summer is spent planning for next year. Staffing is currently a big issue. A lot of elementary students left the district last year, but we are expecting an enrollment increase with home-schooled students returning to TSD this year. In terms of additional planning for next year, there will be a Back 2 School Bash on August 11 for staff. TSD is also looking at a new teacher orientation, retreats for administrators, curriculum planning, and a community mailer with updates on bond accomplishments. There will be ceremonies for the Thompson Career Campus, the school-based health center, and the Stansberry Early Childhood Center as well as the opening of Riverview PK-8, the new school in Thompson River Ranch. Riverview PK-8 should be full in two-three years. The Board of Education will be asked to take action on consolidating Mary Blair and Monroe elementary schools with Conrad Ball Middle
School. Eric asked what will happen to those elementary school buildings. Marc responded that with Monroe, the land is more valuable than the building. No decisions have been made regarding Mary Blair. If approved by BOE, the consolidated school will open in 2023. Students will be returning fully in person in the fall with no mask requirements. One thousand kids attended Camp X-STREAM (summer school), with about 250 students at each site who participated in a lot of hands-on activities.

Kim mentioned that she sat on the Early Childhood Council which addressed how to make more early childhood slots available to children. Her committee suggested a sales and use tax to the Larimer County Board of Commissioners of .25% for Larimer County to help fund early childhood education.

The Dr. Stan Scheer Memorial Fund Golf Tournament is August 6. The tournament is open to foursomes connected to sponsors. There are no major updates to report. Kim would like to have more sponsors at the $1,000 level and up. Board members were asked to let Kim know if they could put together a package for the silent auction. The Back 2 School Bash has been planned. Board members had mentioned donating towards this event; if interested, please let Kim know. The Thompson Career Campus grand opening is September 21.

Lauren asked if a discussion was needed regarding the 2021-2022 operating budget. Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the 2021-2022 operating budget was approved as presented.

Lauren mentioned planning a board retreat in the fall to revisit TEF’s mission and goals. More information will be available at the August board meeting.

In Other Business, Kim asked for two more volunteers to staff the TEF booth during the second shift at the One Sweet Summer concert on July 7. These concerts provide an opportunity to bring awareness to local nonprofits. Xfinity referred TEF for the July 7 concert. Brian J. said he’d be able to help.

Because TEF is a member of the Better Business Bureau, we need a review process for Kim. Kim is reaching out to other foundations for examples of executive director reviews. Kim recommended the review be done every other year and stated that there will be an online version that Lauren will tabulate.

Sarah noted that EL Education will be partnering with Big Thompson Elementary School.

Kim will be in Greece during the August board meeting.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.