

# Northwest Regional Education Service District Foundation

## Virtual Board Meeting

4:30-5:30 p.m., April 7, 2021

[Register in advance for this Zoom meeting.](#)

*Note: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting*

### Regular Meeting Agenda

#### Welcome

1. Call to order Karen Foley

#### Discussion and Action

1. Superintendent's Report Dan Goldman
2. Report of the Grant Committee meeting - [Minutes](#) Karen Foley
3. Proposal presentations Cathy Jensen
  - a. [Playground equipment for Columbia Academy](#) Marina Alvarez
  - b. [Scholarships for Diverse Educator Pathways](#) Karen Foley/Tracey Goldner
  - c. Requests for partnering with the Foundation
  - d. [United Way of Columbia County](#)
  - e. ESD Human Resources Department
4. Director's Report Tracey Goldner
5. Activities to accomplish before June Karen Foley

Upcoming board meetings: June 16, 2021

#### Closing

2. Good of the order

Additional resources

- [Read the latest news from Northwest Regional ESD](#)

## 2019-20 GRANT-MAKING PRIORITIES:

- Birth to 5 Special Education
- Early Learning and Kindergarten Readiness
- School-Age Special Education
- English Language Learners and Migrant Education

## 2020-21 PROPOSED GRANT-MAKING PRIORITIES:

- Expanding regional internet connectivity for students. Helping to ensure all NWRESD students and staff are connected.
- Expanding access to evidence-based instructional tools and curricula that are culturally sustaining, support social-emotional learning, and support NWRESD's growth as an anti-racist, multicultural organization.
- Providing scholarships to NWRESD and component district students/employees on the path to teacher licensure to ensure the region benefits from the strengths and assets of a racially diverse workforce.

# Agenda

Wednesday March 8 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
ESD Foundation Grant Committee – Working Meeting

*(Karen Foley will facilitate the meeting)*

- Welcome and introductions
- Members of the Committee
- Recap and District Immediate Needs:

Requests were made from the Board to the District to identify the current environment, including COVID-19 that were using major resources and dollars to meet immediate needs. This formed the Foundation's suggestion to help fund these needs rather than send out a call for proposals this school year. Asking for money during hardship was felt inappropriate, lack of staff available to assist with an event, and the district's financial situation/staff cuts that were anticipated all contributed to the Foundation activity being on "hold" for several months for any decision making.

- Funding dollars available (Yuen suggested amount)
- Review of past process

(call for proposals, deadline, committee members, reading of proposals and ratings, committee meeting for review and decisions, letters to those accepted and not accepted, cutting checks and communication regarding outcomes)

- Discussion of what needs to change for 2020-21 school year regarding funding of grants.

(Committee to add to question list)

- What communication needs to go to the staff, teachers, therapists about changes and reason.
- What obligation does the board have to communicate with past donors about the change for this year?
- Who is included in the ask?
- Who submits the proposals?
- Who rates the proposals?
- When is the final date to approve proposals
- If more than one proposal is submitted, can we divide funds if appropriate?

- Do we feel comfortable funding all \$15-20,000 to one cause?
- What criteria do we use to make a decision to support a proposal?
- Others:

## Minutes

Pandemic put the foundation on hold, especially the fundraising.

Dan suggested helping during this time when things were up in the air and schools were having difficulty with remote learning. Foundation wanted to know what the big needs were, so Dan said he would talk with staff and figure out the big issues and priorities.

Now we are calling the group together b/c we do have some dollars. Yuen suggested \$15,000-\$20,000. District would propose projects and the foundation would consider them.

We still don't have a lot of clarity for spending that money. We are really glad to have Nancy Ford and Cathy Jensen back on the committee.

Karen reviewed the past process. The committee got pretty good at that process. This year would be different. So we need to review as a group.

We need to come up with a process -

Karen comments/questions:

We have never had people on the grant committee propose projects

We have always asked people from around the district to submit proposals

Who submits and rates the proposals? What's the schedule for this?

How do we handle more than one proposal?

Do we feel comfortable changing the dollar amounts? Do we feel comfortable doing a larger project?

What do we do about the people who have been our donors? Let them know we are continuing a process and that is different now. They are another group of people we want to inform.

Other questions from the group:

Andi thinks we need to do a board ask. Karen should do that. Then we should send a letter to folks on the donor list. Andi doesn't think we should eliminate the ask and it should be specific.

Joe agrees with Andi.

**ACTION ITEM:** We need to reach out again to the folks who received money in the past and ask them about how they spent the money.

Needs for K-12 special ed: Columbia Academy needs a playset at their location. Cathy needs to check with the building owner on whether they can put a playset there.

Karen - we have experience with this. Andi has experience with the playground at HECC - \$80,000. Temporary surface is much cheaper than digging a foundation. The hillsboro project had to be excavated and have matting, etc.

The play equipment is a good ask for our donors.

The board asked Cathy to put together a proposal. Cathy will work with her team to create a proposal for the April 7 meeting.

Andi supports a playground project at Columbia Academy.

Joe wants to know where the students come from.

Cathy says mostly Washington County and some from Columbia County and occasionally outside of the service area. These students have a hard time in their home school districts.

The board will:

Send a letter to donors about how the grant process is changing this year. This is not the year we will be putting out a call to our staff. We will ask current and past donors.

Cathy will create the ask.

Do we need to rate it? No, no need to rate it. The group needs to see the costs.

Karen wants to know how do we know that there isn't anyone else out there who would say we have a similar issue?

Cathy said the needs of Columbia Academy represent the needs for the K-12 special education program.

Add to April 7 board meeting - Diverse Educator Pathway internship scholarships

**ACTION ITEM:** Tracey to ask Marina if they are still expecting that money this year. Ask Marina for the ask (amount, what it is for and why they need it. Ask Marina to send it by April 7 so the board can review it.)

Nancy recommends using the vendor HECC used b/c it is on the state-approved contractor list

We will take this proposal to the board on April 7.

# Columbia Academy

## Playground/Equipment Proposal

Our students need safe opportunities to have physical activity to support their needs, especially their ability to learn to self-regulate. We have ordered a few pieces of equipment in the past, but it isn't very durable and doesn't last long. The playgroup equipment we need is more expensive, and we would love support from the foundation to be able to provide better-quality playground equipment for our students.

What we currently have:





Columbia Academy has been operating for three years. We are always working toward best supporting our students, so many aspects of our launching this new program has been trial and error. We believe a playground would greatly benefit our program and individual student regulation needs.

## More information about Columbia Academy

Columbia Academy is a kindergarten through eighth grade program that supports students with obtaining skills in emotion and self regulation, cognitive flexibility, social thinking, language and communication, and attention and working memory skills. Students are referred to our program through their home school districts and go through our referral process.

Columbia has three classrooms, a full-time behavior specialist and a part-time speech-language pathologist to help students obtain skills in the areas mentioned above. Students spend the majority of their time focusing on instruction and application of skills in those areas. Academics are important and based on current skill level.

## Core Values of our Program:

- Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS): Most of our staff have attended a Tier I CPS training, and several have attended Tier II. Instructional teams complete the Thinking Skills Inventory for each student and Plan B conversations are held program-wide.
- Equity: All staff have received training in equity and receive ongoing monthly equity training. We focus on implementing culturally responsive teaching practices

and curriculum in our program. We encourage honest conversations and community building in our classrooms.

- Restorative Justice: Some staff have had an Introduction to Restorative Practices training and “Accountability Circles” are held to address problem behavior. In addition, there are a variety of other Circles that are provided as needed, including Re-entry Circle, Problem-Solving Circle, Community Building Circle, etc.
- Safety Care: All staff are trained in the use of Safety Care with a focus on de-escalation.
- Trauma-Informed Care (TIC): All staff are trained in TIC and work on an ongoing basis toward applying TIC principles program-wide.



A playground consultant is coming to Columbia Academy the week of April 5. This consultant will provide us with options for what will work for our space and also meet safety regulations.

We will have cost estimates in the next few weeks. I am also working to determine the installation costs.

Thank you.

Sarah Walker, Principal of Columbia Academy



# Proposal for funding for the Diverse Educator Pathways program

To the Northwest Regional Education Service District Foundation Board of Directors

**Requester:** Marina Alvarez, Diverse Educator Pathway Coordinator, Northwest Regional Education Service District

**Amount requested:** \$9,000

## **What is the funding for?**

Funding will be issued to three undocumented students as a scholarship in lieu of payment for their summer internship experience. Summer interns typically work 180-200 hours and receive \$3,000 in compensation. Internships are a vital part of a student's educational experience because it provides them the opportunity to gain quality classroom experience.

## **Why is this funding needed?**

The [Diverse Educator Pathways program](#) is designed to fill critical shortages of bilingual and/or culturally competent teachers in northwest Oregon through an innovative and collaborative "grow your own" program. Northwest Regional Education Service District partners with school districts in Tillamook and Washington counties and regional community colleges and universities. In exchange for support and mentorship, participating students agree to interview and potentially return to their home district upon successful completion of their licensure program.

Undocumented students are unable to participate in summer internships due to their documentation status. They don't qualify for a majority of the support provided for documented youth. Our students desire to be the next educators in our counties, but the system does not help them achieve this dream. Students who receive this scholarship will work as educational interns with Northwest Regional Education Service District.

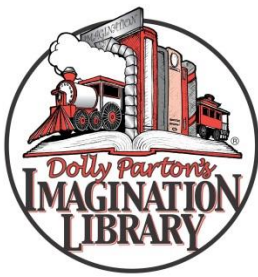
This internship experience will help the students become future educators for our youth. Additionally, this scholarship is a big factor in them being able to continue their studies and be one step closer to receiving their teaching license. As the ESD's transition into an antiracist organization, this is part of the work that can be done to support and serve underrepresented students in our region and pave the way for undocumented youth. Thank you for your past support. I look forward to continuing to partner with the Foundation in the future.

Thank you,  
-Marina

Supporting documentation: impact statements, etc.

[Karen De Niz Thank You Letter](#)

[Jocelyne Mejia Thank You Letter](#)



United Way  
of Columbia County

To: NW Regional ESD Foundation

Dolly Parton Imagination Library Advisory Committee are searching for sponsors for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This is not a United Way Campaign but a standalone program with fiscal management done by United Way. Some quick facts about the program:

- Became available to all children in Columbia County in June 2018
- First books mailed in July of 2018
- Books distributed in Columbia County to as of Feb 2021 -----21,564
- FREE to any child birth to their fifth birthday living in Columbia County
- Census states that there are approximately 2,500 students eligible living in Columbia County
- Books are mailed to children every month by way of Bulk mail
- Costs are about \$25 per year per child
- Tests have shown that children participating in this program for 2 or more years are 30% more likely to be ready for Kindergarten than those not participating
- Columbia County has room for improvement with early literacy

Would you be willing to sponsor a group of children to receive free books through this program?

Ready Reader Sponsor	*	\$5-\$25
Dynamic Duo Sponsor	*	\$26-\$99
Fabulous Foursome Sponsor	*	\$100-\$499
Literature Lover Sponsor	*	\$500-\$999
Bookworm Sponsor	*	\$1,000-\$2,400
<b>Future Readers Sponsor</b>	*	<b>\$2,500-\$4,999</b>
Star Readers Sponsor	*	\$5,000 +

- Sponsors will be acknowledged on face book, printed brochures and from time to time the books being mailed for a period of time depending on the level of sponsorship
- Please consider a three -year commitment with your donation it helps keep this program sustainable.

The United Way of Columbia County and our community partners feel this program has tremendous value to the children of this community, who are undoubtedly our most valuable assets.

It is our hope that community groups and foundations will want to sponsor children on a renewing cycle to ensure that **EVERY** child here begins their schooling with the ability to be successful in their academic careers.

Please make checks payable to United Way of Columbia County and write "Imagination Library" on the memo line.

**Mail to:** United Way of Columbia Count, P O Box 538, Rainier, OR 97048-0538

Thank you for your consideration.

### Imagination Library Advisory Group

Friends of St. Helens, Scappoose, Vernonia, Columbia City Libraries

St. Helens Rotary, St. Helens Lions, Day Breaker Kiwanis, St. Helens Kiwanis- Noon Club,

**United Way of Columbia County**

Claire Catt, Director

