

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.