EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

MINUTES

Meeting: Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation – Board of Trustees Meeting

Date: October 27, 2020

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

☒ Grant Beardsley	☒ Dr. Lori Bica	☒ Julia Diggins	☐Mike Emberson
☒ Sarah French	☒ Kim Hill	☒ Mike Johnson	☒ Heather Market-Sullivan
☒ Jim McDougall	☒ Jennifer McHugh	☒ David Morley	☒ Becky Noland
☒ Derek Prestin	☒ Dustin Wiesner	☒ Wayne Willie	☒ Dr. Blenda Yun

Notes: Meta Miske

Meeting called to order at 12:03 by Chair Jim McDougall.

Call to Order

- Approval of minutes of 7/28/2020
  - Motion by Wayne Morley, second by Grant Beardsley. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.

Superintendent Update

- Superintendent Johnson thanked the Trustees. The solar project is nearly completion and he is aware teachers and staff continue to apply for grants to support innovative learning.
- Blended model includes 80% of students which has some face-to-face and some at-home learning, 20% are 100% virtual. A survey went to families this morning to learn more about how things are going to help ECASD improve. Survey results will be shared publicly. ECASD has shifted staff and administrators to support the virtual model.
- ECASD is aware neighboring systems are going virtual due to outbreaks. Administration examines data with ECCCHD daily and meets weekly to discuss future changes. Students and staff have done a great job with masks and social distancing. Mr. Johnson will share transition plans soon for moving to a more or less restrictive model. Staffing capabilities will influence the model greatly.
- The School Board is working on transitioning to a Coherent Governance model and focusing on equity.
- Questions:
  - Jim McDougall asked Mr. Johnson's thoughts on the role of the ECPSF with the District.
    - Mr. Johnson wants to learn more about the ECPSF, form a positive relationship with as many trustees as he can, and learn about how we can best work together for the benefit of the students. He wants to be actively engaged with the ECPSF.
  - Mr. McDougall asked what Mr. Johnson would like to inspire the ECPSF to put their energies towards to be the best help.
    - Mr. Johnson would ask others for their input such as principals who are more connected to the current needs of ECASD including mental health of staff.
  - Kim Hill thanked Mr. Johnson for bringing up staff mental health and shared ideas for reaching out to staff to support them at a time when they are feeling overwhelmed and the community hasn't always shown support.
    - Mr. Johnson agreed, staff need a boost and ECASD is trying to support them.

Executive Director Update

- Sarah French shared her work of the fall:
    - Grant cycle, application review, and recommendations for funding
    - Back to school connectivity needs
    - New partnerships and gifts including with RCU, Indianhead Food Distributor, Dogtopia, and Midwest Family Media
    - Solar installation at Memorial wrapping up today, ribbon cutting tomorrow with live stream to join
        - Panels being turned on next month
    - Presentation to the School Board in August
    - Annual report preparation
    - Golden Apple Award preparation – will not have a banquet but working to surprise and recognize staff
    - Completing last class for Educational Foundation Leadership certification
    - Equity Diversity and Inclusion initiative with Heather Grant, EMLSS Administrator
    - Thanksgiving cards to all donors
    - Calendar-year end letter

Other Business

- Policies
    - None
- Agreements
    - Niemuth Family Giving Tree Fund paperwork in packet. Started two years ago as an acorn fund and is now fully-funded through a gift from the Niemuth's, along with an updated address for their daughter. Ms. French invited discussion and a motion to approve amendment to move from quasi-endowed acorn fund to fully endowed fund.
        - Wayne Willie asked if switching from long-term to socially responsible impacts ECPSF in terms of spend policy? Ms. French said no.
        - Motion by Blenda Yun, second by Wayne Willie, to approve the amendment to the Niemuth Family Giving Tree Fund. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.
- Other
    - None
- Grants
    - Quarterly grant disbursement is to reimburse ECASD for the grant funding they paid up front. The amount is little smaller than usual as it's slower at the start of the school year.
        - Motion by Grant Beardsley, second by Derek Prestin to approve quarterly grant disbursements. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.

Financial Report

- Dustin Wiesner talked through the financial reports. He indicated operations will cost more than budgeted as only $10,000 remains and there should be a focus on donations that can be used for operations.
- Questions:
    - Mr. McDougall asked why the STEM Scholarship isn't on the outstanding pledges report. Mr. Wiesner said in the accounting system they would have to accrue for that which they didn't feel would be right but it is being tracked separately.
    - Ms. Hill asked if the allocations of $10,000/year for grants is separate or if they need to fundraise for that. Mr. Wiesner clarified said he was only referring to operations and it's separate from funding for grants.
    - Mr. McDougall asked if the administrative fees and expenses are paid to the Community Foundation? Mr. Wiesner indicated the $39,000 is the fees total for ECPSF funds. ECPSF's share is moved into the operations, so the difference is what goes to the Community Foundation.

- Motion by Becky Noland, second by Grant Beardsley, to accept the Financial Report. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.
- Mr. McDougall said page 21-28 is the Community Foundation Agreement which is under discussion as ECPSF has grown. The Finance Committee will be meeting with the Community Foundation to discuss an agreement that will supposedly help both parties.

Allocations Committee Report

- Ms. Hill Kim gave an updated. The committee read 30 grant requests. In the past about half of the grants have gone to support field trips while this year there were no field trip requests.
- The committee must make sure they aren't granting core curriculum materials to avoid influencing equitable access. They do not support subscriptions. They try to support innovative projects and initiatives. There are some large grant requests still needing a decision, including art supplies. The committee has another meeting scheduled to find out if the remaining grants are eligible and they expect to allocate the rest of the money.
- Motion by Jennifer McHugh, second by Julia Diggins, to approve the grants as presented and allow Allocations Committee to grant the remaining $4,500 at the committee's discretion.
    - Mr. Wiesner asked about trends in schools requesting grants? Ms. Hill said every school has received a grant at some point and Ms. French shared data about grants award by school in the last five years.
        - The Marketing Committee is working on telling grant stories to get the word out and they've applied with UWEC to get a writing intern.
    - Mr. Prestin asked if the bylaws allow the Trustees to delegate the duty of approving grants to the Allocations Committee. The answer was not immediately known and therefore decided remote voting would be appropriate.
- Amended motion by Jennifer McHugh, second by Derek Prestin, to approve grants as recommended by committee. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.

Executive Committee Report

- Wayne Willie asked Trustees to consider making their gifts to the Foundation unrestricted or specifically for operations to help support operations costs.
- Ms. French indicated monthly giving is an option for anyone interested in setting up a monthly recurrence.
- There was a reminder for everyone to review the Trustee Responsibilities and Expectations to increase everyone's knowledge about their responsibilities and how to succeed in their mission together.
- Mr. McDougall indicated Executive Committee has been discussing what is next for ECPSF, how to increase giving, what is the next big project, etc. Their goal is to get through the oversight items quickly at meetings so the Trustees may have more engaging discussions. Other Committees will be asked to provide more support.
    - Please review Committee assignments on the last page of the packet.
- Julia Diggins has been asked to chair the Development Committee. She is the Director of Major Gifts for UWEC Foundation.
- Last page of packet is trustee members and committee assignments. They will be asking for committee input on how they can help the ECPSF grow.
- Ms. Hill asked for input on staff appreciation and if there are any objections. No objections were made. Those who could stay to discuss more were invited to stay on the meeting. A

Next meeting XXX, 12-1:30pm.

Motion by Becky Noland, second by Wayne Willie to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.

Meeting adjourned at 1:23pm.

Continued Discussion

- Ms. Hill talked about the exhaustion of staff and the negativity in the community directed toward schools and teachers. She would like to show support for the staff.
- Discussion ensued. Ideas included:
  - Postcard or note cards
  - Form letters
  - Candy or cookie delivery to schools
  - Letter writing campaign
  - "It Seems to Me" article in the Leader-Telegram
  - Story in Volume One
  - Testimonials from students who have great teachers
- Those who are interested can meet at 8:30am on Monday, November 2 to discuss further
- Ms. French will start drafting a letter from the Trustees that can be sent via school mail to each employee thanking them with a goal to have completed by Friday, November 6

- Mr. McDougall mentioned Dr. Bica's son will use his drone to take aerial photos of the solar panels on Memorial for ECPSF to share.