

**THOMPSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m.

Board members in attendance were Kim Akeley-Charron, Rick Bowles, Brian Cullins, Will Delmar, Brandy Grieves, Lauren Haug, Bob Herrmann, Lori Hvizda Ward, Barbara Kruse, Tracy Roller, Marc Schaffer, Celeste Smith, and Sarah Walgast. Board members unable to attend were Paul Baron and Matt Thies. Staff members Lesa Biedron and Eowyn Sanders were also in attendance.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Consent Agenda - consisting of the April 15 board meeting minutes, the April Investment Management Account statements, the ED report, and the April financial reports - was approved.

Kim opened the floor to the board to provide feedback on the Trailblazing Thompson event last month. The board agreed the event was successful, but there should be more cocktail tables for next year. Kim confirmed with Embassy Suites the date for next year's event – Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Celeste thanked the board for the help.

Today is Dr. Schaffer's final TEF board meeting. Celeste thanked him on behalf of the board and the staff for all of his hard work and support throughout his time at TSD. Cupcakes were provided in celebration.

It was another successful year for Project Prom. There was a total of 423 students that attended this year, compared to last year's 318. Students from TSD remained the group with the highest participation. Students from PSD, District 6, St. Vrain, and Wyoming attended as well. The event grows larger each year. Kim and Celeste are considering doing a one-time only homecoming pop-up in the fall to clear out some of the shorter dresses. The Promenade Shops and Exodus Moving and Storage continue to be great partners. The donations from Ace Hardware, Gamma Chi, and donations from the event totaled \$2,596.

As the TEF gets ready for Help Kids Succeed, Kim wanted to touch base with the board about potential changes to the fundraising schedule. At a previous meeting, it was suggested that TEF do the gift catalog at the start of the school year rather than in December. There is some time to decide on the schedule. Kim also asked the board's opinion on continuing to purchase addresses to distribute the catalog more widely. New donors from purchased addresses have increased, but the cost is high. Brian thinks the

foundation needs to continue to build the donor base with advertising. Lauren suggested helping Lesa construct Meta ads for a broader reach rather than buying addresses. The rest of the board agreed.

Kim updated the board on the annual dollar-to-dollar comparison of how much TEF financially gives back to the district. Using the 990 numbers, Kim determined that TEF generates an average of \$3.88 back to TSD for every \$1 of support.

Brian gave the board an update from the finance committee meeting preceding the board meeting. The committee talked over the 2025-26 budget draft and TEF subscribing to a new platform Qgiv. Qgiv is a fundraising platform that is owned by Bloomerang, the donor database software TEF already uses. Adding Qgiv will allow for more customizable donor and event registration pages. For the cost of \$479 a year, TEF can utilize this software to have more efficient and personalized donation pages, as well as eliminating the need to use Eventbrite for event registrations going forward.

The 2025-26 budget draft and the budget comparison are ready for the board to review. Classified staff are getting a pay increase of 5.5%, so there is a projected increase for TEF's portions of Lesa's salary. TSD is working on reimbursing the foundation for their portion of Trailblazing Thompson, \$18,563, which will balance out that portion of the budget. Kim will be contacting the accounting firm to work with them on establishing agreed upon procedures for TEF's check and reconciliation processes.

Kim has heard back from the farm about peaches and the harvest is looking good so far. Lesa has added a teaser for the sales on the website, but there has been no formal advertisement yet. Lesa will be putting together Meta ads to help reach a broader audience. Last year, TEF priced the peaches \$5 above the farm's suggest pricing. This year, the plan is to follow the farm's suggestion and add an additional donation option through Qgiv's ordering page. Celeste asked that the board help share promotional materials on their LinkedIn, if applicable.

Celeste opened the floor for other business. Kim let the board know she put in the order with EPI for Help Kids Succeed. We are not ordering water bottles this year, but will try to get those sponsored by one of our bank partners. Lauren suggested reaching out to post-secondary schools first to see if they can prove bulk water bottles.

Dr. Shaffer shared a final word of thanks.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.