

THOMPSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Kim Akeley-Charron

April 21, 2026

1. Traveling to the NAEF conference last month was a good investment for the foundation. The session value was mixed but time spent with other foundation leaders (including 5 from Colorado) and the conversations regarding upcoming changes to federal education funding was invaluable.
2. The art teachers have been very quick to fill out a list of items to purchase in bulk for the 2026-2027 school year with VolPope Fund support. We are finalizing the list and I have one more meeting with the teachers before we start sourcing and ordering.
3. I received a preliminary estimate from EPI, our HKS wholesaler (using last year's student number with this year's proposed list) and it is looking right on track to be in the \$35,000 range where we like to be. The list adjustments we made with school feedback helped streamline the items and still meet the need.
4. Reminder – at the May finance committee and full board meetings, we will have the draft of the 2026-2027 budget to review and discuss. Final approval will happen at the June meeting.
5. Kind words from Trailblazing Thompson attendees:
 - A wonderful evening and I love the clock!
Ellen Javernick, Teacher
 - The TEF event was incredible! Time to connect, to honor, to celebrate! Thank you for all you do! Carmen Polka, Director
 - Kim, Great work last night! You were a wonderful host, funny, and made it seem easy! Thank you for your hard work. You are a blessing to Thompson. Bill Moudy, Teacher
 - Great event last night! As usual, your staff knocked it out of the park. Love the atmosphere!!
Laura Lee Ehlers, Staff
 - Thank you for putting on such an amazing night. Cindi Lods, Staff
 - Hi Lesa – I have to say, this was one of the best events I've been to in a long time! So much joy in that room – thanks for all you, and Kim, do for TSD and TEF – you're superstars! I got tears in my eyes during the retiree section – so many supporters there cheering on their people, it was awesome! We all need more joy in our lives, so thank you! Dawn Paepke, Kaiser Permanente
 - Good morning TEF Board and Members,
Thank you for a wonderful evening of honoring all our Educators last night. What Dr Heller stated was so very true, people (especially students) learn from our example.
Thank you again, Warm regards, Lori Goebel, BOE

6. I received this note from Andrew Hinerfeld at Community Connections, a 2023 Great Idea grant recipient.

Hi Kim,

I wanted to let you know that Community Connections is still propagating houseplants and selling them, though less regularly. Our sales group decided to do a plant sale at the Admin Building yesterday to raise money for one of our former families whose child (a former Community Connections student) is battling cancer. In two hours, they raised over \$160.00! We are also trying to sell plants through Avery's Modern Teahouse to raise money for the family. Anyway, our TEF Great Ideas Grant from a couple of years ago continues to be put to good use!