

**THOMPSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 4:17 p.m.

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

Dr. Bret Heller introduced himself to the board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Consent Agenda - consisting of the June 17 board meeting minutes, the June & July Investment Management Account statements, the June & July ED reports, and the June financial report - was approved.

The July financial report was not in the consent agenda so that the board can discuss fundraising goals for the 2025-26 fiscal year. There has been a national shift with people choosing to donate to specific funds and goals, rather than to general support. Kim suggested lowering the general unrestricted fundraising goal to account for the shift in donor patterns. There were no comments or questions from the board.

Celeste opened the floor to Dr. Heller to provide his goals for the upcoming school year. While he is still learning how the district functions, Dr. Heller has goals to unite the district as a whole, rather than having each school function individually. He is focused on growing and improving the culture in the district. Kim highlighted and thanked Dr. Heller for the convocation event he held for the staff earlier in the month.

The Help Kids Succeed event in July was successful and was the fastest packing time to date. Kim will be shortening the volunteer shift in coming years to account for the improving efficiency. The Help Kids Succeed mailer was successful as well, pulling in roughly \$18,000 in donations so far. Moving the mailing date to early July rather than late June was a large improvement. There is no need to shift dollars from general unrestricted or the VolPope Support Fund. The delivery with Sertoma and the Thompson Valley EMS went smoothly. The board held a discussion on different ways to procure water bottles for the event. This year, Aims and UNC provided a few hundred water bottles, and TEF bulk ordered the rest. Each school received 50 water bottles regardless of their HKS orders. The board suggested reaching out to post-secondary

schools again, then trying to supplement with TEF branded water bottles. If need be, reaching out to corporate sponsors can be a final option.

Peach sales are officially wrapped up for the year. The foundation netted about \$6,000. After paying the farm and donating \$250 To KidsPak for their assistance, TEF netted about \$1,000. Kim would like the project to net at least \$5,000 to be considered profitable enough to continue. The suggestion from Kim is to not pursue the peach sales next year. Kim and Matt will reach out to Andrew Flanscha to let him know. Staff will also reach out to previous buyers next spring to let them know. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the motion to discontinue the peach sale effort was approved.

The 2025 Scheer Fund Golf Tournament has also wrapped up for the year. Some expenses were carried over from last year's canceled event, and there was an additional \$7,700 in new sponsor dollars that came through for the year. The Beat The Pro with Landon Gentry was a success, raising an additional \$4,288 for the Scheer Fund. Kim has requested Landon to come back next year, then will bring in other professionals in the coming years. There was a turnout of 32 teams with a max of 36. Next year's golf tournament will be on Friday, August 7, 2026.

There will be a one-time homecoming dress giveaway next month on Saturday, September 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. it will be held in the TSD board room. The giveaway will be exclusively for shorter dresses; there will be no shoes, accessories, or men's attire. Remaining short dress stock will be donated after the event. Donations will be accepted. Setup will take place on Friday, September 12.

Brian updated the board on the finance committee proceedings. Doug Rechkemmer of Edward Jones was in attendance to give an update on TEF's investment accounts. The investment account has gone from around \$850,000 to just over \$1.1 million. Doug and his team are great to work with. The committee also voted on the percentage for the endowment distributions for the 2024-25 fiscal year. TEF will be dispersing 6% of the year's investments to the endowment cash funds. The remaining investment dollars will be transferred out of the money market account and into the investment account.

The application for new board members will be open in the fall. We currently don't have representation in the healthcare field, and will be losing real estate after December. A minimum of one position needs to be filled, with room to add two additional. Once the application goes live, direct any candidates to Kim and Lesa, or the application link on the TF website. Sarah is going to check with John Berg to see if he has interest represented the K8 schools on the board.

The 2026 board meeting calendar is posted on the board page and Eowyn will be sending out calendar invites next week.

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.