THOMPSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Board members in attendance were Kim Akeley-Charron, Rick Bowles, Bre Carpenter, Denise Chapman, Brian Cullins, Bret Heller, Bob Herrmann, Lori Hvizda Ward, Barbara Kruse, Markee Ramirez, Celeste Smith, Matt Thies, and Sarah Walgast. Board members unable to attend were Will Delmar and Tracy Roller. Staff members Eowyn Sanders and Lesa Biedron were also in attendance.

The was meeting was opened with a brief tour of the new TEF office space.

Upon motion duly made by Bob Herrmann and seconded by Lori Hvizda Ward the Consent Agenda - consisting of the August 18 board meeting minutes, the August Investment Management Account statements, the August ED reports – was approved.

Dr. Heller gave an update about the current events of the school district.

Kim shared information about the final report for the 2026 Scheer Tournament. Net income was higher than previous year's in spite of the lower golfer turnout. Expenses for the tournament were also reduced due to the turnout.

Help Kids Succeed expenses were $6,500 higher than last year. The income from the Help Kids Succeed mailer and the annual donations from the VolPope Fund were enough to cover the expenses and leave a balance of $7,000 in the HKS account for next year.

Lesa gave the board an update on the upcoming Education After Hours event. The event will be held at The Forge on November 5, 2026 from 4:30 p.m. - 6p.m. Kim and Lesa are preparing the invite list using the donor and sponsor database, and the TSD vendor information provided by the district. Lesa will send invites to the board.

Every year the Better Business Bureau holds the Torch Awards to highlight local business and nonprofits. TEF has never applied, but Kim suggested that TEF apply this year. Brian and Will thought it was a good idea but suggested asking the full board for their opinion. The board was supportive of the idea. The application is due November 5.

Kim updated the board on the status of the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). The guidelines have moved onto the White House and should be finalized soon. The Colorado Schools Foundations Association will be becoming the Colorado Public Schools Foundation to operate as the SGO for Colorado organizations. There have been

funding commitments from large donors and supporters for the state organization, but there is still no guarantee that the program will be longstanding and profitable.

Brian reminded the board that there are two board seats to fill for the coming year. Representatives from healthcare, business, and banking sectors are suggested. The application will be shared on October 1. Barb, Bre, Will, Brian, and Bob (through the end of October) volunteered to be on the interview committee. Will intends to move into the board chair position, so a new V.P. will be needed as well. Kim will be reaching out to board member individually to discuss executive board positions.

Kim reminded the board that the 2026-27 Great Idea Grant recipients will be invited to the December 15 board meeting. Brian asked for location suggestions for the holiday celebration that typically proceeds the December meeting. Loveland Tap & Tavern and The Forge were suggested. Kim will put together a list of three options for the board to chose from and send it over email.

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.