

West Fargo Educational Foundation

January 12, 2015

Attendees (*in person*): Mark Berntson, Karen Nitzkowski, Mark Lemer, Heather Konschak, Angela Otteson, Marisa Pacella, Shauna Vistad

Attendees (*via phone*): Jim Hoy, Clint Schmidt, Mark Staples

1) Staff Interest Survey Results

- a. Fourteen people chose to opt into a contact group in order to continue receiving information on the Educational Foundation. The district will still be able to reach all staff and distribute specific information on topics like mini-grants and Hall of Fame, but more generic communication topics will need to be done with the smaller list.

2) Grant Updates

- a. Otto Bremer > Grant application denied.
- b. Alex Stern Family Foundation > in progress
- c. Bush Foundation > Grant application denied. Angela and Alison will sit in on a phone call with the grant reviewers to learn about what we could do differently next time.
- d. Rotary > in progress / slightly behind
- e. Excel > due in March; Angela will research the application process
- f. FM Area Foundation > due in April
- g. NEW Opportunities
 - i. AT&T > technology-focused
 - ii. Wallace Foundation > dropout prevention

3) New Board Member Recruiting / Paid Staff

- a. Student representatives are needed from both Sheyenne HS and Community HS.
- b. Additional parents/community members would also be great.
- c. As we consider the addition of new board members, ensure that new members are committed to the work of the Foundation, not just looking for something to pad a resume.
- d. The WFEF will request the Executive Director position from the district again this spring. Discussion was had about the possibility of revising the request to a halftime position.

- 4) Update – Applications for Mini-Grants
 - a. At the time of the meeting, four people had requested additional information; no applications had been submitted.
 - b. Due date is Sunday, February 1 @ 5PM.

- 5) Location Research for Hall of Fame Event in September
 - a. Bonanzaville was a great venue last year, but there was a concern raised about handicap accessibility (the event was held on the second level).
The space at Bonanzaville should be tentatively reserved while the board researches other options (like Speedway, Cambria Suits, Red River Valley Fairgrounds and others).
 - b. A final decision will be made at the February 9 meeting.

- 6) Response to Donor Letters
 - a. A handful of donations have come in response to the letters.

- 7) Next Steps
 - a. Target alumni (follow up with data entry on Alison's end)
 - b. Facebook
 - c. Create generic email address: info@westfargofoundation.com
 - d. Finalize Hall of Fame Nominee Committee: Jim will continue, Greg was also planning to continue helping, need 1-2 additional members // encourage people to nominate women and people from the district's early history

- 8) Next Meeting
 - a. Monday, February 9 @ 7:30 AM