

ESF Minutes - August 5, 2019

In attendance: Chrissy Mayer, Claire Harding, Matt Bova, Abram Chrislip, Lauri Kuntz, Tony Barron, Candace Dunback, Don Grosdidier, Robby Giffin, Ed Hurtig, Lindsey Hoover, Barb Keltner, Shawna Mateo, Cara McNorton, Sparkle Oehlert, Matt Peterie, Belinda Rehmer, Ken Barber, Shanda Hurla

Teacher Panel - Chrissy welcomed five district teachers to the meeting to discuss needs within the district. The teacher panel was made up of Nate Robinson, Kyle Stadalman, Sara Cross, Lynae Soderholm, and Chris Lounsbury.

Items that were discussed during the panel discussion:

- Large increases in student enrollment (increased numbers of students per class)
- More (non-traditional and traditional) needs from students and families
- Kids are needing breakfast with protein
- Kids sleep deprived (attention span)
- More social skills taught now than before in school (more play time, imagination station), starts young at K and up
- In high school, reaction time is quick especially with phones
- Need to know your future earlier and earlier. (Juniors knowing what they have to do. Start career planning in 8th grade.)
- The role of the teacher has increased (more hours, spending more of their own money)
- Kids are scared when they come to school
- Don't know how to interact with adults
- Behavioral issues and more things that the teacher needs to deal with
- Teachers are expected to do more with less
- Only offered one text book (sometimes not relevant due to no choice)
- Do your own planning without resources
- Train themselves to find their own resources
- They provide their own resources until the school decides to supply the resource
- Less resources for SPED and specials, paras, safe place until resource arrives
- Lack of applicants for jobs in SPED, etc.
- Special areas designed in K classrooms for high need kids and time alone
- Issue revolves around lack of pay (paras and subs)
- Need more adults, especially in the middle school (especially when they are already below grade level)

Top 3 Needs

- More Paras are needed at EMS (Sara)
- Sensory Room (Lynae and Sara) (exercise ball, stress balls, within the pod)
- Reading and Special Ed staff trained with Letters training for reading (Chris)
- Can have a "Letters" trainer or "Train a Trainer" for their own school? 8 modules - 1-4 1st 5-8 2nd couple days and then online work for Train the Trainer (See Don or Sparkle)
- Book Buddies (adults reading to younger kids)
- Tutoring Programs - after school, places to get snacks after school, (Sara)
- Birds Nest is good and Food Pantry
- Affordability of preschool and early education
- Increasing preschool to 5 days vs 4 days
- Space needed and (Planned space), journalism room - knock out walls, locker removal, flex space at EHS, library space too full, gym space chaotic, nowhere to go during Power Hour - Immediate needs
- Stop outside fundraising for basic needs
- Dress up the high school and add spaces
- Flex space - Moveable tables, moveable everything, wall monitors, mini classrooms made of flexible seats, study nooks, café space,
- Make library a flexible classroom at EHS
- Make flex space for each grade level at EMS, out of space and where can you take kids outside the four walls of your classroom
- Gaga Ball/ recreational areas at EHS

Mental Health Needs

- Social and Emotional Curriculum - Kids already know the answers, not effective
- Mentor program for outlying kids - If you have a crisis, who would you go to?
- Building relationships/social connection
- Mental health speakers @ EHS, EMS
- Need bodies for that one on one connection at EMS and EHS (mentoring)
- Have the speaker during 1st and 2nd semester
- Vaping issues at high school - addiction, especially at EHS
- Teacher requests flexible seating
- Teachers spending their own money to fund their projects (\$500-\$15,000)
- Teachers want their own budgets (Budgets look different)

- Donors Choose (leveraging money via the match time)

Debrief on Panel Discussion

Paraprofessional Needs - Abram questioned if the lack of paraprofessionals was a pay issue and if there was anything that we could do as a foundation to help the issue. Don explained that most para positions are paid via the Co-op. Pay must be set by all three districts with interlocal agreements. Eudora, Baldwin, and Wellsville make up our NEK Co-op. Each district has an amount to pay to the Co-op. Student services are generally funded with state and federal funds at less than what it costs per student. The number of paras and teachers are budgeted at the Co-op level. Funding for special education is based on the number of staff members. So much categorical aid for a teacher and so much for a para. It is only a percentage of the true cost. Lindsey asked if the school board evaluates if we need to be a member of the Co-op anymore? Don stated that we do. We have went from lower district to higher district numbers in Co-op. KSDE has say in if you are able to leave Co-op

Classroom Budgets - Lindsey asked if it is normal not to have a classroom budget? The board agrees that staying competitive in the market is very important since we are close to metro areas. It is important that we are keeping a knowledge of what is going on not only in our district, but the surrounding districts. The foundation decided that we need to focus on how the staff is able to communicate their needs and why they are not getting the supplies they need when they are requested.

Teacher Excellence Grants - Belinda asked if we need to separate out grants to a “needs” grant application and an “innovation” grant application? The grant committee is aware of the requests for both needs and innovation funding? Shanda will set up an opportunity to discuss funding issues with Mr. Splichal and Mr. Votaw which includes building and classroom budgets as well as “needs” funding now that we have heard from the teacher panel. It was agreed that it is important for Mr. Splichal to be at the ESF meetings to be able to answer questions. Don discussed how budgets are generally your priority items only. All districts are facing challenges in trying to catch up over the past few years due to funding cuts. The foundation agreed that sharing the information, being advocates and problem solvers will help pave the way for our future. We will share and discuss the findings from the teacher panel at the next meeting.

Financial Report - Abram reported that the months of June and July were slow and the foundation mainly paid some liabilities. The majority of the numbers are the same as May’s financial report. Abram is working on financial policies and information. He is

working on providing a financial sheet that shows daily expenses per month since the last meeting to present each month. Chrissy moved and Don seconded to approve the July Financial Report.

2019-2020 Budget - Abraham presented the 2019-2020 ESF draft budget. It did not include donated funding for memorials or extra non-controlled funds. It only focused on operating income and expenses. The expected budget is \$35,000 this year, which is less than last year due to last minute \$10,000 donation. Most expenses are the same minus Shanda's salary which the school will supplement. Claire moved and Belinda seconded to approve the draft budget. Motion approved unanimously.

Additional Signature to Bank Account - Shanda asked that Chrissy Mayer be added to the signature card for the ESF account. Belinda moved, Cara seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Professional Development - Claire discussed the funding of professional development for Eudora Schools staff. Claire suggested that ESF allocate professional development funding to the district in the amount of \$7500 (\$2000 EMS, \$2000 EHS, \$3500 EES) This would be with the stipulation that the district involve Mark Dodge in the professional development planning. The building administrator would have the ability to choose the professional development that would be available. There are three levels of professional development points - knowledge (just attending), application level (implement in classroom), impact (teaching others).

Claire moved to allocate \$7500 (\$2000 EMS, \$2000 EHS, \$3500 EES) to the Eudora Schools Professional Development Council for training at EES, EMS, and EHS with the understanding of taking their learning to application levels in the classroom as professional development points. Robby seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

All other agenda items were tabled for a future meeting.

Reminder Thursday is the Health Equity Summit.

Next meeting - October 7th