

# Winters Education Foundation

September 23, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

Winters Public Library

## Minutes

### **Call to Order**

**Welcome Guests** - Dan Maguire; Don Palm; Andrew Skinner; and Todd Cutler, WJUSD Interim Superintendent

**Present** - Kurt Balasek, Mary Jo Rodolfa, Jill Aguiar, Erin Reynoso, Russ Lester

**Absent** - Kate Frazier

**Changes to the Agenda** - none

**Approval of the Agenda** - Motion to approve the agenda as is by Russ Lester, Second by Jill Aguiar. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment** - Todd Cutler, WJUSD Interim Superintendent - Dr. Cutler introduced himself and commented that he is trying to get in touch with everyone in the community and is interested in getting to know and be engaged in the education foundation. He would like to receive the agenda. Kurt will add him to the distribution list. In Rocklin he was the district rep at the education foundation and he suggested we include a district representative(s) at our meetings. He has developed goals through talking with his board, staff and the community and one goal is to communicate how amazing our district is and to promote the district, it's accomplishments and the accomplishments of its staff and former staff. He is looking to figure out a platform to communicate the district's accomplishments and would like to see an annual dinner to recognize folks. A Hall of Fame type of event that is also a fundraising dinner hosted by WEF - it would focus on academics, athletics, the arts, etc. A lot of amazing things are being done here that are not being discussed or acknowledged. Kurt commented that he believes this will help with community awareness of our group and what is happening in our schools. We are looking for motivation and support, that is why we have Dan, Don and Andrew here as guests

tonight. Erin indicated that we are looking to re-establish WEF and we would like to get more board members, including those that have kids in the district. Jill stated that this is an opportunity where we might want to partner with another organization since hosting a dinner is a lot of work and we are a small group. Dr. Cutler said he understands fear of pulling off a big event but that we have to start somewhere. He added that it could be a WEF event but inclusive of other groups in the district to assist without giving up control. Rotary does not do the wine and food event anymore and taking over that slot in community events is a possibility. Guest Dan Maguire commented that the death of the Rotary wine and food event was due to lack of help. Kurt said he will place this on the agenda for the next meeting. Prior to the next board meeting Kurt will meet with Dan Maguire and Todd Cutler to take a look at the events in the community and come up with a time of year. Dr. Cutler commented that he had experience with these types of events in the past, the Fernley Foundation did a yearly dinner and in Rocklin there was a Toast of the Town event. His intention is to recognize excellence.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approval of April 22-15 meeting minutes** - The approval of the minutes as is was made by Russ Lester, Second by Erin Reynoso. Motion carried unanimously.

**Communications & Treasurer's Reports:**

**1. Treasurer's Report (Erin)**

WEF Checking \$3,931.04 end of August 2015

WEF Savings \$8,299.60 end of August 2015

Combined Balance \$12,230.64 end of August 2015

**2. Yocha Dehe Grant balance (Erin)**

\$10,520.07 is remaining that is earmarked for the middle school - Erin met with Principal John Barsotti and the district IT person - there were some thoughts as to how to spend the money, it has to be technology related, the thinking at the time was that they need more juice to get to the school site because of all the computers, they need more bandwidth. Jill commented that it is frustrating that the money is just sitting there. Erin told them it would be there for them if they need

- it. Dr. Cutler commented that the bandwidth is being worked on but that the money will not address it. Jill indicated that what is really needed is training, it is a difficult transition from using a computer to teaching with a computer.
3. **Tax Returns** - Erin reported that all tax returns were filed in May
  4. **Bills** - Two bills were to be paid, one for Winters Chamber of Commerce membership in the amount of \$55, the second was for postage, a reimbursement to Erin for mailing of the tax returns in the amount of \$48.91. Erin added that she received an IRS - 990N reminder but she had already sent the form in. She added that next year we have to do the long form again, then we can change back to the postcard form unless we have another big year with money.

### **Report of Committees**

1. **Board Recruitment (Kurt)** - Kurt introduced Don Palm, Dan Maguire and Andrew Skinner and reported that they are in attendance as a result of board recruitment efforts. He indicated we would love to have them join us but we are not putting them on the spot at this point. Kurt will send them the WEF bylaws for their review. Erin commented that there are some minor amendments to the bylaws that need to happen. Kurt explained to the prospective board members that as a small group WEF can provide intellectual support for the district - we can write grants and added that WEF hit it out of the park with its first grant. The dinner event would be more time consuming but it would only be once a year. He also explained that each year WEF has an Add - a - Dollar campaign with the cooperation of local merchants and fundraising letters are also sent out. We try not to ask local businesses for too much, with add a dollar ask them to support us by having cans at register and having cashiers ask customers if they want to add a dollar. Erin indicated that it is successful for the amount of work involved. Kurt commented that he will be in touch with the three prospective board members over the next month and will send them the by-laws. Erin added that eventually if the board gets large enough then we would have committees for certain tasks.

Kurt - everyone is encouraged to get the word out to folks that we need to get the community financially involved in our public schools - stay out of politics.

2. **WEF annual Grant Program Jill/Erin (update)** - We are missing some evaluations 1 from the elementary school, one from the middle school and two from the high school. Jill will contact the teachers and their principals. She explained to the guests that these are mini-grants to the teachers that replace the role the TIPP grants used to play. We are getting a late start and need to decide if we are doing it this year, our funds are lower this year. Erin indicated that we do have money that we can use but perhaps not as much. Last year we were asked for \$25k in mini-grants. Kurt believes we should continue to offer the grants for consistency. Jill thinks we need to be up front about the amount for each school site. Russ added that we can look at a certain amount per student and asked how much do we want to commit to? It was agreed that \$10k is a doable amount for this year. Jill Aguiar moved that \$10k be allocated for the 2015-16 mini-grants program, Kurt Balasek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Jill and Erin will bring back the details of the mini-grant program at the next meeting.
3. **Data Base Development Committee - Mary Jo** - Mary Jo reviewed the Excel workbook she had developed with information provided by Erin. In addition to spreadsheets containing WEF supporter information she indicated that there is a spreadsheet made up of residents identified on the WJUSD voter list by Kurt and her as potential supporters. It was discussed that the number is quite large and we need to decide how many letters we want to send out to potential supporters. Jill has already prepared the letters and they will go out in the fall. Mary Jo gave a USB drive containing all of the database information to Erin and would also get the information to Kurt. Erin indicated that she would maintain the list since she collects the mail and receives the donations.
4. **Additional Input** - Dr. Cutler remarked that he would like to have WEF present to the WJUSD board. Also he invited all in attendance to a Monday, October 26th

- vision workshop from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Currently it is scheduled to be held in the WJUSD board room but may be moved if a large turnout is expected.
5. **Website Update (none)**- Mary Jo said she played around a bit with developing a WordPress site but asked about the current format for the webpage in case we were just to update it. Kurt indicated that he will get the information to her so we can move forward on it. Mary Jo will try to update the webpage. Jill does the facebook page and will update it with new photos, etc. and link it to the web page. It was agreed that it is important that the web page get updated asap.
  6. **Add a Dollar campaign** - We are late getting started on this, do we still want to do it. Russ suggested yes but in the Spring. Dan Maguire suggested that we expand it, make it part of WEF's branding and visibility, it is not hard to do. Russ Lester moved that we go forward with the Add-a-Dollar campaign, Erin Reynoso seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
  7. **By-Laws Review (treasurer language, Erin)** - the main changes are around the role of the treasurer, the treasurer should not write checks.

**Next meeting** - October 28, 2015

**Adjourned - 7:27 pm**