

Steamboat Springs Education Fund Board
April 5, 2017
5:00 PM
BOCES Board Room

Education Fund Board Directors present included Sam Jones, Kandise Gilbertson, Alissa Merage, Jeanne Mackowski, Cristina Magill, Jill Brabec and Summer Johnson. Chuck Mitchell, Norbert Turek, Kristin Wilson and Jay O'Hare were absent. Also present were Linda Thomas (SSEF accountant); advisor Margie Huron; George Purnell (Soroco); Michael Hayes (MVMCS); Phil Kasper (HSD); Tim Miles (SSSD & Soroco); Brandon LaChance (NRCCS); and Diane Maltby (SSSD). Sarah Katherman prepared the minutes.

- **Call to Order:**

Sam Jones called the joint meeting of the Steamboat Springs Education Fund Board to order at 5:00 PM.

- **CC4E Presentation:**

Jeanne Mackowski and Robin Schepper presented a summary of the work done by the CC4E group. Jeanne reviewed the mission, processes and goals of the group, and discussed the problem the group is trying to address. She reviewed the challenges with the current facilities and the academic pressures that result from these constraints. Robin presented the demographic data on the community and the projected growth of the school population within the district. She noted that the community is strongly in favor of neighborhood elementary schools. Robin presented the various pathways to a solution that the CC4E group had developed, noting that a recommendation would be made to the BOE on May 8th. She said that no decision had been made regarding whether CC4E would make a single recommendation or present several options. Robin also noted that several additional facilities, including a fieldhouse, the renovation of the 7th Street building and improvements to NRCCS had also been discussed.

Regarding the impact of the CC4E recommendations on SSEF, Robin discussed the confusion in the community about what SSEF funds and what it doesn't fund. She stated that it would be undesirable for both parties if a school bond issue and the renewal of the SSEF sales tax funding were both on the 2018 ballot. Sam offered that if a solution to the facilities problem is not found, the requests for SSEF grants to support infrastructure and facilities would likely increase. He noted that SSEF would rather fund teachers and academic enhancements than facilities.

- **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

- **Advisory Board Reports:**

Phil stated that the HSD grant application inadvertently included language that neither the district nor the Hayden BOE president could support. He said that 100% of the IT specialist's time would be needed to support IT for all K-12 students in the district, as it had in the past. The application states that a portion of this person's time would be spent as a technology lab teacher at the elementary level. This was an error. Phil clarified that the amount requested would stay the same (\$52,000).

- **Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2017:**

MOTION

Steamboat Springs Education Fund Board of Directors' Meeting

Cristina moved to approve the EFB meeting minutes of March 1, 2017 as written. Jeanne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Grants Commission Representative Reports:**

Cristina presented the initial recommendations of the GC regarding school district grants. She noted some changes that had been made to the SSSD requests. Sarah clarified that the correction to the budget for the SSSD curriculum materials is outlined in the last two documents of the meeting materials. Regarding the initial allocation recommendation for MVMCS, Kandise added that the GC had discussed that it was inappropriate for the SSEF to fund start-up costs for a new school. Cristina stated that the “first reading” reflects only the preliminary discussion by GC, and that a more in-depth discussion of the district requests would be held at next week’s meeting when community groups and innovation grants would also be considered.

Sam reminded the EFB that its role is not to delve deeply into the fine details of the grant requests. That is the purview of the GC. Sam stated that the role of the EFB is big-picture: looking at the relative allocations, setting the budget, approving the recommendation of the GC, etc. He said that Board members are free to attend the GC meetings at which the details of the applications are discussed. He also noted that the GC had done a great job of trimming the requests to a level very close to the available budget of \$3,460,000. Innovation and Community Group Grants have not yet been discussed in detail.

Marty reviewed that last year the Yampa Valley Medical Center (YVMC) Board had given a gift to each school district to support mental health services. He stated that the program proved to be extremely valuable. He said that SSSD does not yet know if YVMC will be making such a gift again this year, but if it does, the request to SSEF for funds to support the program would be withdrawn. He added that the program is a high priority, and the SSSD budget would be re-prioritized to find the additional \$50K needed to fund the full program if YVMC does not renew their gift.

Sam reported that Ben Barbier had suggested that more Innovation Grant applications would be received if the SSEF identified specific people to promote the program within each school, rather than promoting the program through a staff meeting.

Alissa asked about the percentage allocation for MVMCS recommended by the GC. Courteney offered that the discussion focused on the merits of the applications rather than on a per pupil allocation. Michael asked what measure was used to evaluate merit, and what measure was used to determine what constitutes a start-up cost. He said that each one of the grant requests by MVMCS had a precedent in past requests by other districts. He offered that the recommendations of GC were mostly arbitrary and had little to do with the specifics of the requests. Sam suggested that an overall summary of the rationale for each recommendation could be provided to EFB. Sarah will include the draft minutes from the GC meeting in the EFB meeting materials. He noted that this is a transition year for accommodating MVMCS into the SSEF allocations.

Cristina noted that the Soroco application included a \$5,000 request for a fiber connection between the elementary school and the pre-school. She said that SSEF only funds K-12, so this project cannot be funded.

- **Financial Report**

Linda reviewed the financial report. She highlighted that sale tax revenues have come in 9.67% higher than forecasted, averaged over the first nine months of the fiscal year. The January receipts were 7.2% above forecast. She stated that the amount currently expected to be available for granting for the 2017 –

18 fiscal year is \$3,469,627, after taking out the \$450,000 for the cash flow cushion and the \$33,000 for the BOCES multi-year grant.

Sam stated that the budget had been set at \$3,460,000.

- **Communications Report**

Jeanne said that she continues to work on the new website. She reported that she had received additional photographs from partners, and that she hopes to launch the new site before spring break. Jeanne presented the website and reviewed the navigation. She said that under the “grant history” tab she would like to include a brief narrative review of the funding philosophy of SSEF, perhaps for each year. Summer noted that a letter used to be published each year summarizing the grants. She said she would look for these letters. Sam suggested including a pie chart to indicate the relative percentages of funding that had gone to specific categories: technology, teachers, capital expenses, etc. He noted that all of this information would help to build the base of knowledge in the community regarding what the SSEF funds and what it does not fund. A more detailed discussion of how to present this historical information will be included in the topics for summer sessions.

- **Public Comment (revisited)**

Diane Maltby announced that the Z Space bus would be visiting Steamboat on May 3rd and 4th. The bus will provide an opportunity for students, teachers and community members to experience Z Space technology. She will provide more information about the hours and locations when it becomes available.

- **Contract Reviews**

Sam reviewed the contracts with Linda, the auditing firm, the D & O insurance provider and the agreement to provide services with Sarah. There was a discussion of the engagement letter with Paul Sachs. The EFB agreed that each of these contracts/arrangements should be continued.

- **EFB Vacancies**

Sam reviewed the list of EFB members whose terms are expiring at the end of the June 2017. They include: Sam, Summer, Jay, Kristin, Norbert, Chuck and Cristina. It was also noted that several GC positions are expiring and that one GC position remains unfilled. Sam asked all those whose terms are expiring to decide before the May meeting if they want to renew their position.

There was a discussion of how best to identify/recruit potential new members. It was decided that the responsibility to seek out potential applicants should be shared by all members of the EFB and GC. Summer suggested mining other groups (e.g. CC4E) and that a commitment to attend meetings and fully participate should be a requirement. Alissa recommended that new EFB members should attend GC meetings to get a better understanding of the process.

- **Agenda for the May meeting**

- Review GC recommendations and make final grant awards
- Determine upcoming vacancies on EFB and GC
- Discussion of officers for 2017-18

- **Adjourn**

MOTION

Summer moved to adjourn the meeting; Cristina seconded. The EFB meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.