

## Steamboat Springs Education Fund Board and Grant Commission

June 1, 2016

5:30 PM

Human Service Center Board Room

Education Fund Board Directors present included Sam Jones, Jay O'Hare, Summer Johnson, Cristina Magill, Jill Brabec, Norbert Turek, Kristi Brown and Margie Huron (SSBOE). Kristie Wheeler, Brian Hoza (HBOE), Dean Massey, Kristin Wilson, and Chuck Mitchell were absent. Others present included Linda Thomas (SSEF accountant), Brad Meeks (SSSD), Mark Ryberg (SSSD), Phil Kasper (HSD), Sheila Henderson (Integrated Community), Kate Nowak (United Way), Amy Satkiewicz, Emily Berarducci, Danny David, Robin David, Pat C., Paul Coleman, Chancy Keenan, Alissa Merage, Jeanne Mackowski and Kandise Gilbertson. Teresa Ristow (*Steamboat Pilot & Today*) also attended. Sarah Katherman recorded the meeting and prepared minutes.

- **Call to Order:**

Sam Jones called the regular meeting of the SSEF Board to order at 5:30 p.m.

- **Public Comment:**

Kate Nowak, the executive director of the United Way, reviewed United Way's *Success by Six* program. She presented information on the importance of early childhood education and urged the EFB to invest in all-day kindergarten (all-day K). Amy Satkiewicz, the president of the Strawberry Park Elementary (SPE) PIC, stated that the 4th grade classes for next year at SPE are currently slated to have 26 or 27 kids each. She said that this is unacceptable and noted that the SSEF was passed to support small class size and technology. She urged SSEF to fund an additional 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Danny David said that he does not mind paying for all-day K, but that his son, who will be a 4<sup>th</sup> grader next year, has severe ADHD. Mr. David said that his son would have a very hard time and be very disruptive in a large class. Danny's wife, Robin, added that the price of all-day K is significantly less than the cost of day care, which most parents pay for. Sheila Henderson, the executive director of Integrated Community, noted that most people in poverty in the community are immigrant families. She said that charging for all-day K creates immediate socio-economic segregation. She urged the EFB to support free all-day K. She estimated that approximately 25 kids are at risk of not attending all-day K due to cost. Pat C. (?), a parent of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader offered that the issue should not be described as all-day K vs. an additional 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She urged the EFB to fund another teacher and provide a scholarship program to help those for whom K tuition is a burden. She offered that small class size is a core strength of SSSD and should not be sacrificed to support a new program. Paul Coleman also urged the EFB to support small class sizes. Emily Berarducci, the SSSD Middle School French teacher, discussed the increased demand for middle school French and urged the EFB to fund an additional section. Chancy Keegan stated that both all-day K and small class size are important. She said that finding a permanent solution to maintaining small class size is crucial, and offered that Routt County could support a higher mil levy or could dedicate other tax funds to this issue.

- **Board Member Comments**

Cristina reviewed the GC discussion regarding how to spend the additional \$81,000 that was available for granting as of the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. She said that although there was consensus that the additional funds should be spent, there was not consensus on how to do so. The GC was roughly split among those who supported funding a teaching position, those that supported funding to ensure free all-day K and those who supported drawing down the cash flow cushion to support both.

- **Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2016**

**MOTION**

*Kristi moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2016 EFB meeting, as written. Jay seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.***

- **CC4E**

Cristina stated that the CC4E group, which consists of 18 community members, was formed in response to the overwhelming defeat of last November's bond issue. She said that the independent group is focused on gathering information and soliciting input from the community on all areas of education in the community. Cristina stated that comments are being categorized into seven general areas of interest: facilities, accountability, policy, programs, finance, community collaboration and staff. She reviewed the make-up of the committee and urged everyone to submit comments.

- **Financial Report**

Linda reviewed the financial statements. She stated that the total available cash on June 30, 2016 is expected to be \$130,208.19. She noted that March tax revenues were up 4.9% over forecast. Linda reviewed the reserve analysis in comparison with last year. With a cash cushion of \$450,000, the total amount anticipated to be available for grants is \$3,118,786. This figure is \$115,595 above the amount already approved for grants.

- **Supplemental Budget**

Sam noted that the budget was set on March 1, 2016 and is used by the districts and the SSEF for budgeting purposes, but that the number is based on an estimate. As the actual tax revenues come in, that estimate may prove to be high or low. This year it is expected that there will be an additional \$115,595 over budget, which the EFB may choose to spend or not. He distributed information on half and all-day K enrollment, noting that the enrollment is a function of demographics rather than tuition. Brad offered that K enrollment is extraordinarily difficult to predict. He said that current K pre-registration at SSSD is at 155, and that more students always enroll over the summer. In response to a question from Cristina, Mark described the difficulties associated with offering scholarships. Brad said that the district does not favor a scholarship program.

Sam reviewed the history of the SSEF cash flow cushion and said that the \$450,000 is not really up for discussion, since it had already been set.

There was a discussion of how to fund an additional teacher and reduce the tuition for all-day K. Norbert left the meeting. Brad stated that the additional 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher would be a new position, and that there is a classroom available. With an additional 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at SPE there would be three classes of 20 and one of 21 students. Sam noted that \$7500 would allow for an additional section of middle school French. He stated that if \$75,000 is used to fund a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and \$7,500 is used for French, there would be a balance of \$33,095 that could be used to reduce all-day K tuition to approximately \$550 per student.

Kristi proposed funding the teacher, the French section and 100% of the all-day K, dipping into the cash flow cushion by \$86,905 to do so (for a total cash flow cushion of \$363,095).

Jill disclosed that she has a child going into 4<sup>th</sup> grade at SPE. It was decided that this did not present a conflict of interest.

Cristina said that a permanent solution to all-day K must be found, and offered that the pressure to find that solution would be reduced if the EFB devotes funds to all-day K. She suggested returning the \$33,095 to the fund to add to the amount to be used on next year's grants.

#### **MOTION**

*Cristina moved to approve supplemental funding for a \$7,500 grant to support an additional section of middle school French and a \$75,000 grant to support an additional 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at SPE, ~~with the remaining \$33,095 to remain in the fund.~~ Jay seconded the motion.*

Under discussion, Kristi offered a friendly amendment to delete from the motion the clause requiring the remaining \$33,095 to be returned to the cash flow cushion. This amendment was accepted, as indicated above. **The amended motion carried 5 – 1.**

#### **MOTION**

*Kristi moved to approve supplemental funding of \$120,000 to cover the \$750 tuition for 160 students for all-day K, reducing the cash flow cushion to \$363,095. Summer seconded the motion.*

Under discussion Sam noted that if revenues fall below forecast, the cash flow cushion would be reduced even further. Linda added that a reduced cash flow cushion could result in delayed payments to the school districts. Brad agreed that a long-term solution to all-day K was needed, and said that this proposal would buy the district some time to find that solution. Kristi said that it is important that all 1<sup>st</sup> graders start on even footing, and that free all-day K would reduce the poverty gap in education and would promote social justice and equity in health and education. **The motion was denied 2 – 4.**

#### **MOTION**

*Summer moved to approve supplemental funding for a grant of \$33,095 to SSSD to reduce the all-day K tuition, in whatever way possible. Sam seconded the motion.*

Under discussion Jill stated her preference for a scholarship program. In response to a question from Margie, the EFB resoundingly declined to administer a scholarship program. There was discussion of how a scholarship program might be structured. Mark reviewed the difficulties with using the free and reduced lunch program model. Jill suggested granting the funds to a third-party non-profit to administer the scholarships. Phil offered that reducing the cost of all-day K at SSSD would put HSD at a disadvantage regarding retaining students within the HSD, which would further exacerbate SSSD's crowding problem. HSD charges \$1200 per year for all-day K, with all but 18 students under scholarship. There was a discussion of whether the supplemental funding should be split according the 80/5/5 funding allocation model. Cristina said this issue had also been discussed by the GC, which had confirmed that the model is only a guideline. Following discussion, Brad said that he would agree to co-operating with Phil on the use of the funds if they were allocated to support all-day K. **The motion carried 3 – 2.**

Many EFB members reiterated their preference for distributing the money through a scholarship program.

- **EFB and GC candidate interviews**

Alissa Merage, Jeanne Mackowski, and Kandise Gilberston each reviewed their backgrounds and qualifications for positions on the EFB. Kandise said she would be willing serve on both the EFB and the GC. Sam noted that Jeff Merage had also submitted an application for an open GC position and Katie Armstrong had submitted an application for an open GC position. Sam noted that Katie's application has the EFB box checked, but this was an error.

**MOTION**

*Cristina moved to approve Alissa, Jeanne and Kandise as members of the EFB; and Jeff, Kandise and Katie as members of the GC. All appointments are for terms of two years. Jay seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.***

Sam suggested that the applications and final approvals for Jeff and Katie for the GC could be reviewed at the first GC meeting in the fall.

- **Annual Report to City Council**

Sam said he would consult with Kristi regarding what was required and schedule the report with City Council.

- **Summer worksessions**

Sam said that he would circulate an email regarding proposed dates for the worksessions.

- **Revenue forecast for 2016-17 budget**

**MOTION**

*Sam moved to forecast revenues for the 2016-17 fiscal year budget to remain the same as the 2015-16 actual revenues. Cristina seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.***

- **Adjourn**

**MOTION**

*Jay moved to adjourn the meeting; Summer seconded. **The Education Fund Board of Directors' meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.***

	<b>Education Fund Board Grants</b>	<b>Approved 2016-2017</b>
G17-09a-H	Hayden IT Support Staff	\$45,000
G17-09b-H	Hayden Technology Wireless Infrastructure	\$60,479
G17-09c-H	Hayden Technology Renaissance Learning	\$11,900
G17-11-H	Hayden Intervention Staff	\$31,237
	<b>total Hayden</b>	<b>\$148,616</b>
G17-12-SR	SR Technology	\$86,000
G17-13-SR	SR Science Teacher (.6 FTE)	\$30,000
G17-14-SR	SR Instructional Coach (.6 FTE)	\$30,000
	<b>total South Rount</b>	<b>\$146,000</b>
G17-15-SR	Steamboat Academic Excellence	\$1,204,825
G17-16-SBS	4th Grade SPE Teacher	\$75,000
G17-17-SBS	Steamboat English Language Learner	\$175,000
G17-18-SBS	Steamboat Gifted & Talented	\$100,000
G17-19-SBS	Middle School French	\$7,500
G17-20a-SBS	Technology: Staff	\$65,000
G17-20b-SBS	Technology Hardware:Vendor Support	\$20,000
G17-20c-SBS	Technology Hardware:SMART	\$5,442
G17-20d-SBS	Technology Hardware:Phone	\$48,000

G17-20e-SBS	Technology Hardware:Operation	\$35,000
G17-20f-SBS	Technology: Chrome Books	\$70,000
G17-20g-SBS	Technology: Laptops	\$24,000
G17-20h-SBS	Technology: City Conduit	\$136,000
G17-20i-SBS	Technology: Server Replace	\$36,000
G17-20j-SBS	Technology: Virtual	\$50,400
G17-20k-SBS	Technology: Aruba Support	\$7,500
G17-20l-SBS	Technology: Lefthand/Nimble/VMWare	\$15,000
G17-20m-SBS	Technology: Centurion	\$60,000
G17-20n-SBS	Technology: Software	\$130,000
G17-21-SBS	Steamboat Instructional Coaches (2 FTE from 3)	\$142,000
G17-22-SBS	Adaptive PE	\$15,000
G17-23-SBS	NRCCS Instructional/Intervention/Data	\$41,000
	<b>total Steamboat Springs</b>	<b>\$2,462,667</b>
G17-01-COM	Yamapatika Environmental Literacy	\$25,000
G17-02-COM	RMYC Science School	\$30,000
G17-03-COM	Partners Middle School Mentors	\$97,408
G17-04-COM	Steamboat Springs Ensemble	\$3,000
G17-05-COM	Integrated Community	\$5,000
G17-06-COM	Routt County CEO	\$15,000
G17-07-COM	Yampa Valely Autism Program	\$2,000
G17-08-COM	Strings Music Festival	\$3,000
	<b>total Community Groups</b>	<b>\$180,408</b>
G17-24-SR/H/SBS	All Day Kindergarten	\$33,095
G17-25-SR/H/SBS	Grant Writer	\$80,000
G17-26-SR/H/SBS	i3 SEED Federal Match	\$38,000
	<b>total Collaborative Grants</b>	<b>\$151,095</b>
G17-27-A	Administrative Expenses	\$30,000
	<b>total Admin Expenses</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
	<b>Total Budget Granted for 2016-2017</b>	<b>\$3,118,786</b>