

- Call to order and adoption of agenda
 - 5:35 call to order
 - Agenda-
 - Erin motioned to approve
 - Ryan seconded the motion
- Roll call (sign-in sheet)
 - Present: Michelle Kaschak, Amy Kinnon, Sarah Halpin (online), Katie Straughn, Valerie Kile, Matthew Koncz, Erin Vermuelen, Carissa Snelling, Leann Stitzel, Ryan Wukitsch, Greg Kuhn, Daniel Macauley
 - Not in Attendance: Jake Oldaker, Joe Velarde, Liz Lake

Guest: Chrissa Sansome, possible new board member

- Approval of 4.13.26 [NWLEF Meeting Minutes](#)
 - Erin motioned to approve
 - Ryan seconded
- Communications/Announcements
 - None tonight
- New Business
 - None tonight
- Development Director - [Amy Kinnon](#)
 - Onboarding 2.0 with new board members
 - [DD & Board Member 1:1](#)
 - Amy was able to schedule with all new board members, Onboarding 2.0
 - Amy has some out-of-office time, but would like all board members to schedule with her as soon as you can.
 - See the link above to sign up for a time.
 - [Goal Update](#)
 - [Prospect List](#)
 - Amy discussed why the Annual Partner number is lower. She looked at some places that had management changes. BROCC pulled out. DJI Insurance reduced their sponsorship. Loss two \$1000 sponsors, but gained two new ones.
 - Bus sponsorships also complicate the numbers. Amy explained how some of the money was counted last year and not this year.
 - This discussion spurred the question - Did we bump up the annual partner goal too high?
 - Average number for the last five years for annual partners is roughly \$45000 if you do not count the bus.
 - Daniel asked if the district still wanted to do a second bus, but we need to look at logistics and design for title sponsors of the bus as one does not like the size of their current logo.
 - Development Director - Goal Update
 - Event Fundraising includes the 5k, but not the auction, which closes tonight.

	GOALS	YTD	Goal %
Annual Partners*	\$69,250	\$47,917	69%
Event Fundraising	\$42,225	\$39,111	93%
General Donations	\$25,000	\$25,274	101%
Restricted EITC	\$136,000	\$129,500	95%
Restricted Grants	\$11,092		

■ TOTAL	\$272,475	\$252,894	93%
■ *Includes Bus Sponsorship - \$4500			

- Committee Reports - *Surface dates, votes, action items or financial impacts - not intended to dupe a committee report*
 - Finance - [Matthew Koncz](#)
 - [Finance Summary Apr-May](#)
 - Got some Annual Partner money come in
 - EITC- Neffs is lowering their EITC donations probably because of their focus on a different region than ours.
 - CD is coming due as well.
 - See all details in the above link.
 - [2026-2027 Annual Budget Review](#)
 - EITC funding and approvals- we need to spend \$116,550 with 20,000 for the competitive psychology program.
 - Upper limit will be \$148000 if we fund this everything
 - Event budget discussion
 - Income expectations- do we see any overshooting?
 - Wizards event- Erin went conservative in the numbers. Erin budgeted for 750 tickets sold.
 - Amy asked Leann who is the audience for it?
 - Leann- if you can capitalize on getting basketball players and teachers from all the schools, you should have really good attendance.
 - Daniel- Amy's goals and the budget does not need to be the same. Should we move some budget numbers lower to make them more achievable?
 - Matt- economy is impacting business donations for things like partnerships.
 - Overall budget discussion- 33% of new budget would be our expenses. Is there anything we could cut?
 - Finance committee budget- new amount would be a conference for Amy to attend. Matt built in some expected expenses raising prices
 - Actual expenses for board expenses was discussed. \$81255 total expenses for running the foundation.
 - Allocations will be at 159,000 with expected expenses at 132000 with 27000 for grow grants or unallocated allocations. The sports psychology program will be cutting down what we can spend in the unallocated category.
 - Because of this, should we cut expenses? Amy noted the budget is conservative and expenses are not in terms of next year's budget. Are we being too conservative?
 - Leann said that we never made a promise to teachers about the amount available. Amy said that maybe we evaluate partway through next year if we are not hitting some of the numbers.
 - Val commented that we approve the budget every year. We can change timing of things. 33% expense is a little higher than normal, with some new events that may be lower.
 - Val wants to make sure we are still funding grow grants.
 - Erin asked if we still want to keep \$60,000 as the bottom line. We can go lower. But prior years discussions put as comfortable as a board not going below \$60,000
 - Daniel- we went really heavy on the unrestricted allocations. Artist in Residence can now be used in EITC, so it switches from the unrestricted allocations. He also reiterated the \$60000 asking if it was where we need to be?
 - Expenses we can hold in Matt's opinion- EDDM, Board Training, Facebook Ads, Conference, Kindergarten Books, Teacher Appreciation Gifts
 - Erin commented that we should approve things as is, but we can reevaluate throughout the year.
 - Ryan made the point that with annual partners going down, we are okay to make a one year adjustment with less allocations. He also noted we can reevaluate during the year. We need to maintain a healthy balance. We can budget things down based on current environment.
- Motions to approve the budget based on adjustments

- Erin motioned
- Dan seconded
- All in favor
- Budget approved

- [Allocations - Liz Lake](#)
 - Liz could not be here tonight. Daniel filled in
 - GROW Grant notifications - sent late April
 - Grant approvals: Motion to approve:
 - Lions Follweiler (\$6,092)
 - Saws that were needed
 - Bessie S Graham (\$5,000)
 - Risers for middle school
 - Motion to approve \$11,092 for the grant spending
 - Val made the motion
 - Katie seconded
 - All in favor
 - [Competitive Psychology](#) - discussion/no vote needed
 - Funds Requested: \$27,600 (for a 2Y contract)
 - We could allocate the \$20,000 now.
 - We want to support project, but not a project we cannot support in perpetuity.
 - Funds Offered: \$10,000 per year - totalling \$20,000
 - Leaving balance of \$7,600 to fund through concessions/booster funds
 - Conditions:
 - We will not fund in perpetuity. Program funded for a period of 2 years - if expansion is desired for Y3, additional requests to be submitted to NWLEF.
 - NWLEF named a sponsor in any promotional material to students & parents.
 - \$37600 investment with \$10000 covered by school district. NWLEF would fund \$20,000. Leanne said it will not matter how we pay it because the school district could make it work.
 - We will fund \$20,000 total with 10,000 this year and 10, 000 next year.
 - Focus is not just on sports, but any competitive landscapes by NWL students.
 - Katie wanted to know that it would be open to all students. Leanne said that is a goal of the athletic department to make it available to all students.
 - Daniel made the comment that is all mental health related.
 - Carissa asked about finding a donor to help fund. Amy said that she is hoping to find that.
 - Katie made the motion to fund \$10,000 for competitive psychology project this year.
 - Erin seconded.
 - All in favor.
 - EITC status
 - \$129, 500 in EITC funds (Daniel explained EITC funds for guest)
 - Must spend \$116,550 dollars this fiscal year or next fiscal year
 - Allocations is suggesting
 - We have **\$129,500** in EITC Funds this year - need to spend 90% which is **\$116,550**. before the end of the fiscal year. Given tonight's meeting is the last of the year, we'd like to recommend the following
 - **State sends back on Monday and projects are approved - what does the spend look like?**
 - **Digital Photography: \$30,000 (NEW PROJECT)**

- **Artist in Residence: \$6,000 (NEW PROJECT)**
- **Developing Lifelong Fitness: \$18,000**
- **Elementary Makerspace: \$2,000**
- **Middle School Makerspace: \$2,000**
- **Broadcasting Studio: \$12,000**
- **Virtual Reality: \$35,000**
- **Interactive Whiteboards: \$12,000**

- State sends back on Monday and projects are not approved - what does the spend look like? - not preferred
 - Developing Lifelong Fitness: \$18,000
 - Elementary Makerspace: \$2,000
 - Middle School Makerspace: \$2,000
 - Virtual Reality: \$35,000
 - Broadcasting Studio: \$20,000
 - Interactive Whiteboards: \$40,000
- Daniel- explained what we can fund immediately (second group listed above).
- We are hoping for state approval for the two new projects listed above.
- We will need an e-vote once we get notice from the state about if the new projects are approved. We can hold \$36,000 for next fiscal year if needed. Look for an email for an e-vote if these projects are approved.
- Tonight's intent would be to approve \$81,000 for the EITC program with the already approved projects.
 - Motion: Val
 - Ryan seconded
 - All in favor
- Daniel reminded everyone to ask for access to Google Drive that gives more detail if you have any questions about these projects.
- Val noted the total lifetime funding from foundation 2,471,655.48.
- Check for this fiscal year is \$149,914

○ Events & Fundraising - Erin Vermeulen

- Tiger Run & Fun Walk Recap
 - Erin thanked everyone who showed up to help.
 - 100 participants.
 - Numbers were down and not where we were hoping we would be.
 - Brought in just over \$3000
 - New Tripoli Fire company check \$200 and winning school high school gets \$200 for the PE Teachers
 - We will not be doing a run and walk next year.
- Wizards Event
 - Wizards event is going to replace the Tiger run.
 - Looking at a winter event in 2027.
 - We need a chair for the Wizards event. We should have good school and community support. Some board members expressed interest (Ryan and potentially others) in possibly chairing event.
 - We need at least 30 people to volunteer. Student Council at high school will help.
- Golf Tournament - Friday, August 14, 2026 - [Registration](#) and [Volunteers](#)
 - Please register or volunteer or both.

- Need people on course during the event. Erin did make the shifts shorter.
- Online Auction
 - Ends tonight at 11:00 p.m.
 - Phone site is not as user-friendly.
 - Currently proceeds are around \$2150.00
 - The goal is to make it its own event.
 - Good news- Carissa- first time donors from lots of businesses.
 - Ryan asked if we would reposition the timing with the run going away. It's a busy time of year. The answer was yes probably winter.
- Fundraisers: Senior Signs + Legacy Boxes
- Tiger Takeovers: The Mill, Summer Farm Tour
 - Carissa is looking at different places with some more summer places like a flower/ farm stand in July. Any contacts? Let her know.
- Community Advancement - Valerie Kile
 - Video Project: Please watch. Val will give some edits to them, so review and share feedback with Val by Wednesday, 6/10.
 - View the video here: <https://vimeo.com/1194547058?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>
 - Password: nwlef26ABV1
 - Alumni Spotlight Update
 - Social Media Post went live today.
 - Was in prior newsletter.
 - Trying to get in NW Press.
 - Weisenberg Community Center Opening - August 1 9:00-12:00 get back to them with what we want to do. Talk to Sarah and Katie about it. Michelle suggested a pickleball racquet and ball set (maybe custom!)
- Executive
 - Strategic Plan - Continue to review and update
 - In the middle of our five year strategic plan. Please update as needed.
 - Text vs Email & Email Expectations
 - Questions about how often board members should be checking email
 - Don't always get more timely email responses.
 - Text messaging is touchy subject. People do not want to be in group texts.
 - Thoughts from board members?
 - Ryan onboarding 2.0- people respond better to texts.
 - Carissa did not get responses when she was hoping to get some for the emails.
 - Amy asked what the expectation should be for checking emails?
 - Michelle suggested a once a week expectation. Greg asked how we would check that. Michelle said it's an expectation, but we won't be checking.
 - Sarah asked if her personal email can be added to the board member group.
 - We will look into adding preferred emails to the board member group email.
 - Val will fix that.
 - The general consensus seems to be that people check email but do not always respond. If you need a timely response, please text.
 - If you need a response in email, put a date needed in the subject line.
 - Org Chart Update
 - Val circulated a new org chart where board members could put themselves in for new positions.
 - Open Seats + Succession Planning
 - Three open seats
 - Michael, Joe, and Jim are officially done.
 - We have some interest. Chrissa, our guest, has an interest in joining the board.

- Chrissa introduced herself.
 - E-vote will come out to officially vote on Chrissa as a board member.
- Bills for Payment (checks to be cut at conclusion of meeting)
 - School District \$102,092
 - Video \$3650
 - Tiger run winning school \$200.00
 - NT Fire Company \$200.00
- Other business items, discussion points, comments, closed-door topics
 - None tonight
- Adjournment at 8:03 p.m.
 - Erin motioned to adjourn
 - Matt and Katie seconded the motion
 - All in favor