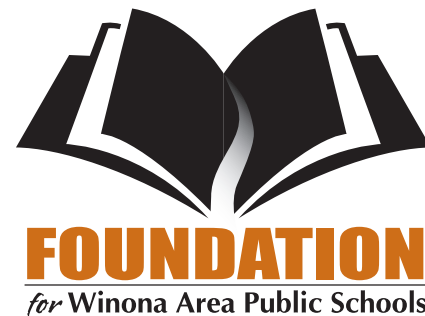


The Foundation Files



THE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2019-2020)

Ben Baratto, **** Ret. Ed. Rep.**
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Dan Bucknam
Nancy Denzer, ***** School Board Rep.**
Daniel Florness, Jr., **Student Rep.**
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**** Ex-Officio; Voting**
***** Ex-Officio; Non-Voting**
Shelley Milek, **Executive Director**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I think about the Foundation and our purpose, I realize that the purpose is continually evolving. Although our mission is to enrich and enhance education for our students, the specific need often changes. With tightened school budgets and demands for varied education becoming greater, we take a moment to review the many contributions we have. We are blessed to have an amazing group of Board of Directors that not only puts the time in, but listens and does the research to determine how we can best help the Winona Area Public Schools and its students. By reflecting on the work of the Foundation's past year, we continue to expand educational opportunities for our students.

We started the 2018-2019 school year by rolling out the "World Market" event dollars to administration and staff. Dollars were distributed proportionately to schools and departments on a per student basis. This past school year, we were proud to donate \$58,000 to WAPS to use for educational enhancements.

Next, two grant awards were provided to staff who donated through payroll deduction. The grant awards, to be used for educational enrichment, were given this past year to Dwayne Voegeli and Jon Feldhake. They used their grants for the WSHS Link Crew program which is a peer mentorship program that connects upperclassmen Link Leaders with every freshman in the high school.

The annual \$5000 Dare to Dream grant flooded the Foundation with wonderful innovative ideas to develop education for our students. This year's winning grant was written by Jen Snook for Class Virtual Reality. Look for more information on this grant award later in this newsletter.

This winter, a diligent industrious committee worked countless hours to present the event, A Night to Shine, to our guests. For the second year in a row, one of the worst blizzards of the winter would not keep our donors from supporting education for the Winona Area Public Schools. The sold-out event raised \$53,000 for Academics, Arts, Athletics and Activities. The proceeds from the event were distributed to our schools at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.

In the spring, students, sometimes for the first time, were exposed to the art of poetry through the annual Haake Poetry Prize Competition. Dr. Paul Haake created a fund at the Foundation for WAPS with a generous donation which allowed us to provide the opportunity for this poetry contest.

Scholarship funds continued to grow this year as we were able to provide 29 scholarships at the WSHS Awards Ceremony to students progressing on with further education.

This fall, the Foundation is also welcoming the new superintendent of schools, Annette Freiheit, to the Winona Area Public Schools and Foundation Board of Directors. Annette comes to Winona with a rich background as a former teacher, principal, superintendent of schools and WSU graduate. We look forward to partnering with Annette to find the best ways to enrich education for our students.

As educational trends change and continue to grow, the Foundation for WAPS wants to ensure that the students of the Winona Area Public Schools are either prepared for the work force or small and large universities alike. We are proud to play a role and also know that the abundant support from donors, alumni, staff, community and businesses affords us the opportunity to provide for our schools. We could not do it without this great support. Thank you!! We look forward to additionally playing a role in another great school year.

- Shelley Milek, Executive Director



Executive Director,
Shelley Milek



Not pictured: Kate Gilmer, Patrick Menton & Erica Ping

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The 2018-2019 school year was very active and eventful for the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools.

Some of the highlights included:

- 50 classroom and school grants
- "Dare to Dream" \$5000 grant for WMS Class Virtual Reality
- \$53,000 was raised @ A Night to Shine event for Academics, Arts, Athletics & Activities
- Japan Ambassadors grant to Misato
- Concordia Language Trip grant
- (2) \$250 Teacher Grants to use for educational materials
- 98 Donor Advised Funds and management of them
- 29 scholarships from funds held at the Foundation for WAPS
- 10 prize awards from the Haake Poetry Fund for winning poetry
- Over \$780,000 has been directed this year through the Foundation for WAPS to projects that enhance public education in Winona

The Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors, and I, would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generosity and kind support. The help has made all of the special programs, projects and field trips listed in this newsletter, and much, much more possible.



FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS...COMING AND GOING

The Foundation for WAPS continues to evolve, change and keep the mission in mind to enrich and enhance education for our students. We are fortunate to have gifted and skilled volunteers who give their time and expertise for the betterment of the Foundation. Although it is always hard to see volunteers complete their terms on the Board of Directors, we look forward to other volunteer members who will add to the benefits that our past board members started and continue the progress, while adding new innovative ideas.

THANK YOU to the following Foundation Board of Directors completing terms!!



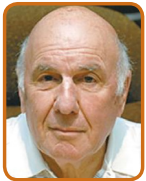
LAURA EDDY - Laura completed two terms on the Foundation Board of Directors. She has served on the Grants Committee, Marketing and Event Committee where she served as Attendance Chair. Laura not only brought her expertise in fundraising to the team, but also her great business sense. Laura has sensitivity to helping those in need; especially children. Laura has always said, "Strong schools make strong communities."

LIZ PAULSON - Liz also completed two terms on the board. Liz served as treasurer, was active with all audits, and was a cashier at events. Liz provided strong financial guidance and helped the Foundation make effective fiscal decisions. Liz feels "it was an honor to work with a talented and caring board/director, and to be part of helping fund so many exciting student enrichment activities."



RICHARD DAHMAN - Rich completed two years as the Superintendent Representative on the Foundation Board of Directors. Rich was able to assist the Foundation Board of Directors with information on WAPS curriculum and budget needs, understanding WAPS operations, and provided insight into the educational direction our schools are going. This insight helped the Foundation better understand the needs of our schools. Best wishes to Rich as he enters a new chapter in his life and thank you for your service.

JADE JOSWICK - Jade served as the Student Representative on the Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors for two years. She was on the Grants Committee and said she felt she always left a board meeting like she had contributed and helped all age levels. Not only did Jade provide great student insight, she is leaving the board with a better understanding of the group effort needed to achieve board goals and appreciates the great support the Foundation received from the community. Jade encourages other students to get involved with the Foundation, as it is a huge way to represent the student body. Jade plans to go to the U of M Carlson College of Business in the fall for public relations and marketing.



BEN BARATTO - Ben served as the School Board Representative on the WAPS Board of Directors for two full terms. Ben came to the Foundation each meeting with ways the Foundation could help support the Winona Area Public Schools. His awareness, vision, passion and understanding of the needs for the schools were very beneficial as decisions were made. We appreciate his time and commitment to the Foundation and Winona Area Public Schools.

Thank you to Laura, Liz, Rich, Jade and Ben for the great service to the Foundation!



Welcome to the new Foundation Board of Directors!!

The Foundation for Winona Area Public School welcomes Julie Boelter, Kris Lynch, Daniel Florness Jr., Annette Freiheit, and Nancy Denzer as Board of Directors. Julie has 3 children who have all graduated from the Winona Area Public Schools, has volunteered and held many positions on committees for WAPS and at our Foundation events, and currently works in the testing and learning lab at WSU. Kris has 2 children currently attending WAPS, is a social worker and advocate to ensure all children have an equal opportunity for learning. Daniel joins the Foundation as the Student Representative. Daniel is eager to get started and work to share the student voice. Annette comes to the Foundation Board of Directors with insight and experience as a teacher, principal and superintendent of schools. Nancy Denzer took on the role of School Board Representative for the Foundation Board of Directors. Her longtime background as educator and former principal will truly benefit our board. We look forward to her collaboration as we work together to benefit our students.

Welcome Julie, Kris, Daniel, Annette & Nancy!!



CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!

Information on the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools, its mission, Board of Directors, grants, and alumni connections can be found on our website at:

www.foundationwaps.org

Also, a **link for online donations** is available 24/7 for gifts in honor or memory of a special person, program or event.



The Foundation is on Facebook!! Check us out!!

A NIGHT TO SHINE! RAISES OVER \$53,000 FOR WINONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!

* Next year's event date will be OCTOBER 24, 2020 *

One of the most intense blizzards of the season could not keep a sold-out crowd away from celebrating and raising money for the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools and public education in Winona. Guests entered Visions Event Center enhanced with movie themed décor ready to raise their paddles for Academics, Arts, Athletics and Activities for the Winona Area Public Schools.

Mary Bergin kicked off the celebration as this year's 2019 Legacy Award winner. The Legacy Award is presented to a citizen or organization that shows exemplary support and commitment to the Foundation's goal to enhance education with dedication to our community of learners. With nearly 40 years of operational, accounting and systems management experience, Mary Bergin currently serves as Vice President of Knitcraft Corporation in Winona, Minnesota. She believes everyone can give back to their community with their time and talents, which in turn will reap the benefit of tremendous personal growth. Congratulations Mary, for this well-deserved award.

Guests perused the 60's black and white movie-themed art, enjoyed centerpieces of antique historic reels, and appreciated

forged metal reel sculptures adorning the space, all for sale, and sure to find a place in a home theater or study. Over 150 donated items from generous businesses and personal donors enhanced the evening and lead to one of the most prosperous auctions ever. Eager guests, with positioned bid paddles, got their workout as friendly banter and competition on the live auction, flush with varied donations from mouth-watering dinners to guided fishing tours, earned over \$15,000 for the cause.

WNB Financial and Merchants Bank once again showed their support for the Foundation and public education by offering up their lead sponsorship, as well as, many corporate and community donors.

As guests hoping to beat the storm paid for their items and cashiers were kept continually busy, the *A Night to Shine* event could undoubtedly be considered a success!! \$53,000 was rolled out in the fall to all of our Winona Area Public Schools for Academics, Arts, Athletics and Activities.

For more information on the Foundation contact Shelley Milek at 507-494-1004 or www.foundationwaps.org.



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Helen Imm Trust

WSHS Soccer Team
Daniel & Jennie Florness

WSHS Touchdown Club
WSHS Touchdown Club

LEAVE A LEGACY/LOWELL NELSON SOCIETY DONATIONS

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EVENT 2019

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Marjorie Van Cleave
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The Wine House
Jennifer Woyczik

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Foundation

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	Sophia Allena Moe College Scholarship Fund Olivia Andera Connie Blackburn-Lowry Blooming Grounds Express		

LEAVE A LEGACY... THROUGH THE FOUNDATION'S LOWELL NELSON SOCIETY

In 1997, the Foundation Board of Directors established the Lowell Nelson Society in honor of former District 861 Superintendent Lowell Nelson. Membership in the Society is accorded to those who help build the Foundation's endowment by naming the Foundation, as a beneficiary in their wills, qualified pension plans (including IRAs, 401k's, Keoghs, etc.), insurance policies, trusts, or other types of planned gifts.

Please consider the Foundation when you are updating your will or developing your estate and retirement plans. Our office is here to help you make a difference in the lives that follow.



SOCIETY FOUNDERS INCLUDE:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Judy Bodway
Susan & John Eddy
Gayle Goetzman
Mark Godsey
Norma Grausnick
Harriet Green
Carmen & Scott Hannon
Shannon & Jim Hanzel
Dr. Donna Helble*
Susan Hoffe*
Neva King *
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Sharon Suchla*
Rita Sullivan*
Linda A. Wood
Joyce & Pete * Woodworth
(*deceased) |
|--|---|

TEACHER & STAFF PAYROLL DEDUCTION PARTICIPANTS 2018-2019

Donations come in many ways. One way is through the gifts the Winona Area Public Schools staff gives to the Foundation. We have highlighted in many past newsletters the countless hours teachers give to students to ensure they have the best education possible. Teachers are mentors outside of work and volunteer in many outside activities.

One example, I have seen firsthand, is staff and students volunteering and helping at our event. This past year John Cassellius, and his football staff and team, helped unload a truck and provide event set-up. In addition, retired teacher, Hayley Martin, provided her decorating expertise. Staff donations are too numerous to mention, but two volunteers, Amber and Scott Mlynczak, stood out in our mind this year. Amber collected donations and worked the Wine and Beer Pull Market at the event and Scott provided two auction items up for bid. Scott donated his painting services this summer along with a crab boil which brought in \$1200.



We also cannot forget to thank the nearly 100 staff members who participate in the Foundation's Payroll Deduction Program benefitting the Winona Area Public Schools. Their support provided over \$11,000 for our student's education. We are humbled by these gifts and the opportunity to work with you and are so grateful!

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Cindy Amberg
Courtney W. Anderson
Shannon Bechly
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Amanda K. Indra
William J. Jacobs
Gretchen A. Johns-Derbyshire
Jay E. Kohner
Molli R. Kook
Lisa M. Kulzer
Susan Larsen
Holly J. Lecheler

Corey F. Lee
Mary L. Lewis-Hyde
Kenneth J. Mann
Sundra L. Menton
Brenda C. Merchlewitz
Luke A. Merchlewitz
Amber J. Mlynczak
Debra A. Moe
Kimberly Moran
Jeffrey S. Morgan
Lisa L. Mullen
Jenny M. Nettles
Patricia L. Norman
Susan L. Ogren

Kim M. Penrod
Linda K. Pfeilsticker
Nathan J. Pollock
Stacy A. Rasmussen
Jed Reisetter
Judy M. Sanvik
Thomas P. Sanvik
Barrie B. Schank
Margaret M. Schild
Steven R. Schild
Kirstin J. Schultz
Mary Schultz
Julie L. Seeley
Melissa L. Shields

Anne M. Simon-Debroux
Lisa K. Skifton
Emily Solheid
Jen Snook
Terri A. Spartz
Ted A. Stuckmayer
Brenda L. Svendsen
Wendy Tiesing
Dwayne A. Voegeli
Brenda S. Volkman
Kara L. Welch
Kathleen M. Welch
Elizabeth A. Wright
Judith A. Yess

WAPS TECH NEST

The Foundation for WAPS has had the privilege of getting to know some of the Winona Area Public School students of Tech Nest. This is an extra curricular organization, within WAPS, headed by Jeremy Graves, where they are learning to trouble shoot computer problems and are learning analyzation and communication skills. With a Dare to Dream grant from the Foundation for WAPS, they are also learning to operate a drone and better understand how those skills can be integrated into future careers. The Tech Nest group recently also used their skills to create a video for the Foundation for WAPS fundraising event.

The four graduating seniors, Connor Sanvik, Dalton Prenot, Isaac Hicks, and Chole Langowski all feel this experience has not only provided computer and IT education, but has given them confidence to continue education and explore careers in this field. They attended the TIES Technology Education Conference to meet other schools also working to integrate technology education in their schools. Connor Sanvik said, "We left the conference feeling the WAPS Tech Nest program is a notch above other schools at the conference and we are doing more than a lot of other schools in technology education."



Because of this great technological internship program, the four Tech Nest seniors are going to explore educational opportunities in this field.

EVENT PROCEEDS AT WORK IN YOUR CLASSROOMS...

Event dollars were distributed once again at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year proportionately to each school or special department in our district. Staff and administration worked collaboratively to determine the best use of the dollars distributed and how they could help to engage our students and enhance education. Of course space would not allow me to list all items, but here is a snapshot of your Event dollars at work. Thank you for all of the support, we could not do it without you!

- Educational sensory materials
- Art and music supplies
- St. Mary's Page Theater Nutcracker performance
- College tours
- Big 9 Music
- Playground equipment
- Physical Education equipment
- Reading materials
- Magnetic building blocks
- LEGO education intelligent bricks
- Virtual Reality headsets
- Pre-school magnetic blocks, sensory trampoline, play kitchen, play shopping cart
- Learning wobble chairs
- Educational stand up desks
- Calculator sets
- Romeo & Juliet kits
- Kawai rosewood piano
- Educational banners
- Mental health screening kits
- Career Day
- Interactive Health Technologies trip
- Batting cage
- Camera for photography education
- Books
- STEM supplies
- Large screen projector for presentations and PE classes
- Log books
- Yoga mats



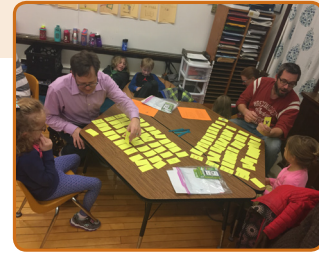
FOUNDATION GRANT MONEY AT WORK...

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools reviews grant requests yearly to help to pay for things like, field trips, technology, educational supplies, music and art, books, physical education equipment, etc. We are able to provide these wonderful benefits of education because we are provided with generous support from our donors. The Foundation is working hard to shorten the gap of budget shortfalls by providing modern equipment and resources that play a vital role in enriching education for our students. Take a look at some of the great things our grants have provided for our students.



2018-19 GRANT AWARDS

- 7th Grade Trip to Children's Theatre Co.
- SE MN Field Investigation Trip
- History Day
- Fort Snelling & State Capitol Trip
- Elementary Author Visits
- Mayo Health Fair
- Music Staff Whiteboards
- Native American Music Presentation
- Class Speaker on Writing
- Class Speaker on Historical Fiction
- Birds of Prey Presentation
- Rotary Lights 8th Grade Choir Performance
- Sensory Tools for Pre - School
- Sensory Tools for 2nd - 5th Grade
- LEO PayDay Rewards Program WALC
- MOA Econ Stats Class Study - WSHS
- WMS Speaker- Behavior
- Dr. Jean Music & Bluetooth Speaker - W-K
- 7th Grade Social Studies Field Trip History Center
- Bee Bots
- ECFE Education Families
- Science Museum Assembly - WMS
- WSHS Orchestra Trip to NYC
- Japan Ambassadors to Misato
- Honors Choir Trip - UWEC
- Celebr8 - Great Bears Resort
- RIOS Bilingual Math Night
- Writing Cutting Aide Kit
- Calm Down Buckets
- Concordia Language Village Trip
- Shine On - 3rd & 4th Girls Retreat
- MN Zoo Trip - 5th Grade
- Musical Theatre Field Trip
- Calendar Time - Developmental Cognitive
- Performance in the Park - WMS Choir
- MOA Field Trip - Honors Econ & Stats
- Trip to Jump Start - 5th Grade
- Trip To MMAM - 2nd Grade Jefferson
- Elementary Author Visit
- Spanish Books - WMS
- Young Writers Conference - WMS
- Shakespeare in the Schools - WSHS
- Guthrie Field Trip - WMS
- Kalahari Band Trip - WMS
- AVID Blessings Bags
- Owl Pellet Education
- RIOS Artist Residency
- Speaker Brooks Gibbs on Bullying



WAPS ALUMNA, GAYLE B. GOETZMAN, GIVES BACK TO THE FOUNDATION!



Gayle Goetzman loved school. She started school at W-K when she was five and attended there through the 9th grade. She talked about having good educators, good principals and a teacher, Miss Pear, who helped Gayle to acquire a passion for reading. Gayle Goetzman taught for thirty-six years. Thirty-Five of those years were at WAPS, with twenty-seven years at W-K. Often, people leave a legacy when they have passed. Gayle chose to leave part of her legacy to the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools in a form of a scholarship. When asked why she chose to leave her gift at this time, she stated, "I want to make sure my wishes are carried out and I want to help students. I want to help carry out the gift of education to others and make a difference." She continued to say, "I want to live passion with a purpose." Gayle started a \$3000 annual scholarship at the Foundation for a student who will be pursuing post-secondary education; and hopes that they have attended W-K during part of their educational years. The Foundation for WAPS is fortunate to have Gayle Goetzman give back to our students with her passion for education. Thank you for allowing us to collaborate on this educational enhancement with you.

FOUNDATION FOR WAPS 2018 DARE TO DREAM WINNER!

Jen Snook, WMS Technology Integration Specialist, is awarded the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools 2018/2019 \$5000 Dare to Dream grant winner. Jen writes, "The Winona Area Public Schools is moving more and more in a direction of learning through technology to support communication, collaboration, creativity and problem solving. Teachers and students alike seek out authentic experiences and find it is more important than ever to discover new and engaging ways to learn and teach."

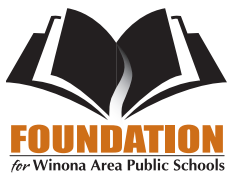
Jen's dream is to incorporate virtual and augmented reality into education and training in the classroom to achieve this goal. Jen proposed using the ground-breaking technology of Class VR that immerses students into content in a way that cannot be accomplished in two-dimensional space of paper or a computer screen. The library includes over 700 curriculum-aligned resources which provides content on topics, such as, historical times, habitats and nature, cities and structures, conflicts and disasters, physical features, science and technology, and arts and culture. Beyond the resources included in the set, teachers can create their own virtual reality experiences using 360 degree photos and videos. In addition to the physical components of the set, ClassVR includes online help and on-site technical support.

Virtual reality and augmented reality build on current effective practices of immersing students in cultural, scientific, artistic, and mathematical thinking, in order to experience that content from within and to help understand it to a deeper degree. As an example, through the use of virtual reality, students can "walk-around" inside an animal cell and look around to identify parts of the cell and witness processes up close. They can also "walk along" the Great Wall of China and view the landscape from atop the structure. With augmented reality, students might rotate a 3-dimensional human heart in their personal space as if they have access to the actual object.

Snook sees the ClassVR system as a multi-media approach which enhances what students are seeing in books or Google media. She explains that looking at information in a 3D virtual reality mode helps the students to engage in new and meaningful ways. It is Snook's hope that this is just the next step toward encouraging lasting learning,



Congratulations Jen Snook for Daring to Dream!



Mission

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is an independent, non-profit, 501©3 organization established in 1991 and funded entirely by community and business supporters of education in Winona. The single purpose of the Foundation is to enrich and expand educational opportunities in Winona Area Public Schools by supporting important programs and projects that would otherwise not be funded through normal district resources.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations can be made online, (www.foundationwaps.org), in person at our office at WMS, or by mail at 1570 Homer Road, Winona, MN 55987. Gifts are frequently made in honor or in memory of a special person or event and can also be provided via a will, pension plan or other types of planned giving.

For more information, please call the Foundation at 507-494-1004 or email: support@foundationwaps.org

Community & Alumni Support

Community and alumni support has been invaluable to the many projects that have benefited our students. Using the emails collected from the Alumni Directory update, the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools has started to reach out to alumni to share with them what is new at school and the work of the Foundation to enrich and enhance learning for students and teaching for our faculty.

If you, or a family member, are a WSHS alumni and you are not receiving an emailed newsletter, please use on the online form, found on the Foundation website at www.foundationwaps.org/alumni, to update your contact information.

Mark your Calendars!

**Look for an upcoming event
on October 24, 2020!**

www.foundationwaps.org

Over the past year, **more than \$780,000** has been directed through the Foundation to projects and programs that have enhanced education in the Winona Area Public Schools through the Foundation. Many thanks to the many generous and caring donors who have made this possible.

SINCERE THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

1570 Homer Road
Winona, MN 55987
507-494-1004



"Investing in today's students for tomorrow's future."