

Greenwood Education Foundation Board Meeting Agenda

July 13th, 2026

1. Call to Order

2. Treasurer's Report - Peter

3. Approval of Minutes - Sam

4. Monthly Icebreaker - Philanthropic Development - One Mission, Many Strengths

5. Committees

A. Special Events - Phil

1. Committee/events update - Phil
2. National Night Out info & vote - Phil

B. GEF Cares - Tracie

1. Fast Track Update
2. Fall 2026 plans
3. Committee member Vote

C. Monte Carlo - Chloe & David

1. Crane Bay Event Center - February 27, 2027
2. Committee Member Vote

D. Grants - Michelle

1. Committee Update

E. Scholarships - Peter

1. Scholarships awarded May 19, 2026, 12 recipients

6. Old Business

A. Hamernik Agreement - Tiffany

7. New Business

A. Reallocation of bank accounts, Raymond James/Modern Woodman - Peter

B. 26-27 Budget - Peter

C. SGO/NAEF charter & ad hoc committee - Tiffany

D. Alumni Dinner on July 18th - funding request - Tiffany

E. Conflict of Interest form

8. Next Meeting Date -

August Opening Meeting/Retreat - Saturday, August 22nd, 9-12

Location: Johnson County Training Center - Franklin, IN

ED REPORT - 7/12/26

Major Gifts

A major milestone was reached with David Hamernik as we finalized the official gift agreement establishing the Jeanie Hamernik Teaching Excellence Fund. This marks GEF's first formal gift agreement and our first permanently restricted endowment fund. David previously contributed \$50,000 to establish the fund and has shared his intent to continue growing the fund with an additional contribution this fall. At David's request, once this year's Northeast Elementary New Teacher Grants have been completed, the original \$3,800 memorial gift he made in Jeanie's honor will be transferred into the corpus of the endowment.

We also finalized and signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Dr. Nalin and Mona Shah regarding the ongoing funding of the Super Grant. Under the agreement, the grant has officially been renamed the Dr. Nalin and Mona Shah Super Grant, and the Shahs have agreed to fund the \$5,000 grant annually as long as their financial circumstances remain unchanged. As part of the agreement, Dr. Shah will serve as one anonymous grant evaluator. His evaluation will count as one score among the full panel of evaluators and does not independently determine the grant recipient.

Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO)

On June 17, I attended the State Superintendent Association webinar introducing the new federal tax credit scholarship program. Since then, I have participated in a number of conversations with Dr. Terhune, Mike Taylor with the National Association of Education Foundations, and other stakeholders to better understand how this new federal legislation aligns with Indiana law.

As information became available, we held a special Executive Committee meeting followed by a Zoom meeting for the full Board to discuss the opportunity. The Board voted to move forward with NAEF's partner charter model, contingent upon Indiana law permitting participation. Greenwood Community Schools has also agreed to cover the initial \$2,000 participation fee should the program move forward. This program continues to evolve, and I remain in regular communication with Mike Taylor as additional guidance becomes available.

Board Portal

A new secure Board Portal has been created on the GEF website for current board members. All committee handbooks completed this spring have now been uploaded, along with bylaws, board rosters, contact information, IRS tax-exempt documentation, W-9, financial reports, board agendas, meeting minutes, Executive Director reports, and committee-specific resources. This portal will continue to evolve as additional materials are added throughout the year.

Board Orientation

A comprehensive Board Orientation was developed and held on July 7 for all new board members, including Erin Biggs. Presentation slides and an accompanying orientation guide were created to cover board expectations, standard operating procedures, governance practices, and organizational operations. Peter concluded the evening by walking new members through GEF's financial reports and answering questions.

Board Mentorship Program

A mentorship program has been established for all new board members. Three veteran board members (Phil, Chloe, & Peter) volunteered to serve as mentors, with each new member paired individually. A mentor guide was also created outlining suggested discussion topics and timelines to help mentors guide new members through their first year of service.

Committee Planning

Throughout the summer I have continued meeting with committee leadership to prepare for the 2026-27 school year. Planning meetings have been held with the Special Events and Grants Committees, while conversations have also taken place with GEF CARES leadership regarding Highlight Mental Health. These meetings have focused on committee goals, anticipated workload, and planning for the upcoming year.

I have also continued working with committee chairs to identify volunteer opportunities for individuals who attended our spring community call-out meeting, helping connect interested volunteers with committees that best match their interests and availability.

Planning has also begun with Carolyn Goerner for the August Board Retreat. This year's retreat will focus on individual strengths and how they can be used to build stronger committees following the addition of several new board members. Although an INAPEF grant submitted to offset the cost of the StrengthsFinder materials was not funded, GEF will move forward with the initiative as a modest investment in board development.

Grant Writing

New board member Ashley McLaughlin has begun assisting with GEF's grant development efforts. We have worked together to provide access to GEF's grant research platform (grantwatch.com), discuss future funding opportunities, and establish a shared dashboard to organize grant applications, identify funding priorities, and maintain demographic data of GWS schools to strengthen future grant proposals.

Book Vending Machines

Work has continued with Williams Comfort Air, Inchy Book Bundles, and Ann Reinhart to finalize this year's book selections for the elementary book vending machines. Orders have been submitted, paid for in full by Williams Comfort Air, and are expected to arrive before the start of school.

Our partnership with Psi Iota Xi continues to grow. Their recent \$1,000 donation has been distributed among the four elementary schools for supplemental books. They are also creating recognition stickers for the books they funded and recently donated several additional boxes of new books purchased during the Hatchet Book Sale. Planning has also begun to recruit volunteers who can assist with restocking the book vending machines before the start of the school year.

Kindergarten Club

The Kindergarten Club campaign has been updated and launched for the upcoming school year. Website content has been refreshed, new promotional materials and social media posts have been created, and information has been distributed to elementary principals to share with incoming kindergarten families. These efforts originated in March and ran thru the summer. The official campaign ended July 11 so materials can be received before the start of school.

Highlight Mental Health

A two-page Highlight Mental Health Impact Report was created and distributed to current and prospective sponsors as we begin planning for this year's event. Follow-up sponsorship conversations will begin over the coming weeks. Planning meetings have also been scheduled with Erin Biggs and Ann Briggs as they begin leading this year's event.

Impact Report

A condensed 2025-26 GEF Impact Report was created and uploaded to the Board Portal for future reference. The report has also been distributed individually to sponsors of Highlight Mental Health, Monte Carlo, and Bags & Bourbon Bingo as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts.

Community Partnerships

Planning continues for this year's New Teacher Grant fundraiser with Phil Strack and Vino Villa. A September 17 date has been secured for a wine and cheese experience benefiting the New Teacher Grant program. Vino Villa continues to be an outstanding community partner by helping secure additional wine, cheese, and vendor donations while keeping event expenses low.

Met with representatives from Centier Bank regarding their partnership for the 2026-27 school year. Initial conversations were very positive, and they have expressed their intent to continue supporting GEF while increasing their annual contribution from \$5,500 to \$6,000 pending their corporate budgeting process in January. Discussions focused on expanding their support of Highlight Mental Health while simplifying their year-round sponsorship involvement.

A partnership meeting has also been scheduled with Cameron and Patrick from Raptor Roofing to discuss their support for the upcoming school year, including Monte Carlo, Teachers on the Town, and the monthly Teacher Recognition program.

I attended the Johnson County Community Foundation's 35th Anniversary Celebration where GEF was selected to receive a special one-time grant of \$3,500. GEF was nominated by JCCF Board Member Vicki Noblitt, and the award check is expected to arrive shortly.

Preparations have also begun for this year's School Supply Drive with Greenwood United Methodist Church. Collection bins have been delivered, and the church has received an updated list of GEF's highest-need school supply items.

I have also begun coordinating donor visits with Greenwood High School and Greenwood Middle School for the upcoming school year. These visits allow many of our major donors to experience firsthand the impact of GEF-funded grants while strengthening their connection to Greenwood schools.

Website

As part of our annual summer website updates, donor recognition lists, program information, and website content have been reviewed and updated. All grants awarded during the 2025-26 school year have also been added to the website.

Alumni

The 2026 Best Class Alumni Campaign concluded with \$5,302 raised in support of GEF. New "Best Class" plates have been created and added to the trophies to recognize this year's winning classes and will be presented during the All-Class Alumni Reunion Dinner on July 18. The Class of '72 won for most funds raised and the Class of '94 won for most participation.

Tax Preparation

Peter and I have been meeting with Steve Moan of Lawrie & Dunbar CPAs regarding future tax preparation services. Lawrie & Dunbar has agreed to prepare GEF's annual Form 990 for a maximum cost of \$1,500, with the possibility of reducing that expense through future sponsorship or in-kind service arrangements.