

Education Foundation Meeting Recap January 2026

The regular meeting of the Warren Alvarado Oslo Education Foundation was held on January 21st in the high school multipurpose room. Present for the meeting were: Melanie Nelson, Lisa Almquist, Dewey Swanson, Jessica Syverson, Rodger Haugtvedt and Jen Nelson. School board liaisons present included Jordan Johnson, Sally Roller and Ashley Reinier and Dr. Tara Olson, Elementary School principal.

Nick Engfer, high school art teacher, dropped in prior to the meeting and shared an update on the plasma cutter; it has been ordered and should arrive sometime next month. He also shared a project he's created using the new Pony logo as a possible gift idea from the foundation to selected recipients.

The meeting was called to order by vice chair, Meanie Nelson. The secretary's report and treasurer's reports were given. Jordan and Sally shared updates from the school board. Melanie provided the office report and scholarship payout information in Lydia's absence. Two Two scholarships have been increased to \$1500 for the upcoming 2026 graduates. Lisa provided an update on the Venmo account, sharing we have \$255 in the account as of the end of December. One golf team has registered for the annual tournament.

Dr. Olson presented information regarding the Spelling Bee Competition, held today. Winners were shared and Natalie Larson, champion, has been registered to move on to the next level of competition. Dr. Olson further discussed a new program she'd like to initiate for students: Math Masters. After discussion completed, it was later decided the foundation would like to fully support this opportunity for our youth. A total of \$851.09 was approved to get this project off the ground for this year. There will be a team of teachers working along with her.

An update on the music department needs was updated by Melanie and Lisa. Molly shared via email that she received a \$3000 grant; money given by the foundation will be placed in her set-aside account for usage at her discretion.

Rodger led a discussion about the foundation's annual Christmas cards. The group determined a group photo, to be taken at the annual golf tournament, should be used rather than the cards of previous years. The scope should be broadened to include recognition of an increased number of donors. A motion was made and approved to adjust our Christmas cards.

A slate of officers was presented and voted upon with the following outcome: Chair, Carol Anderson, Vice Chair, Melanie Nelson, Treasurer, Lisa Almquist and Secretary, Jessica Syverson. A motion was made and approved to accept the slate.

Other discussions included ideas for the edition of the spring *Connections*. Interview names were given with attention to one. Donations and memorials were reviewed with a motion to accept them.

The next meeting will be held on February 18th at 5:30 pm. All are welcome.