Brownsburg Education Foundation Board
Meeting Minutes April 20, 2026
Bulldog Conference Room

Present: Melissa Middleton, Kevin Hall, Dana Thomas, Kat Fenoglio, HaiQuynh Jamison, Rene Behrend, Heather Jones, Alyssa Lumley, Dr. Kat Jessup, Dr. Katie Dixon, Jeff Smith, Ben Behrend

Absent: Morenikeji (Mo) Balogun, Arthur Hamilton, Tara Casey, Jamie Hall, Beth Grant, Dale Sharpe

I. Welcome.
   a. Melissa Middleton calls the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Minutes and Financial Report.
   a. Review of the February 17, 2026 minutes.
      i. Motion to Approve: Jeff Smith; Seconded: Ben Behrend; Approved unanimously.
   b. Kevin Hall provides the financial report - covers the balance sheet and budget-to-actual report. No questions or discussion.

III. Committee and Director Reports.
   a. Advance written reports were provided from the Golf Outing, Grants, Scholarships, Gala, Bricks. and Designer Purse Bingo committees. The Director’s Report was also provided prior to the meeting. No questions or discussion.

IV. Strategic Matters.
   a. Strategic Plan: Melissa gives a report on the Strategic Plan progress. Notes that our 2025-26 strategic plan is complete. Notes that the event scorecards are now standardized and complete and will be available on the BEF website in the *Board Only* section.
   b. Strategic Retreat: The September 21, 2026 Strategic Retreat with Hedges is a mandatory attendance from 4-9 p.m. with a meal provided. All new board applicants have been briefed on this requirement and are committed to attending.
   c. Governance Committee: Discussion around the makeup of this committee. Initially, it will only consist of board officers. It may open up to other board members if the interest is there. Rene has a document that outlines the

responsibilities of this committee and will share with the group.

d. Development Committee: Discussion on this committee revolves around the need more conversation around the focus and definition of what "development" means. There are differing expectations for this committee mission among the board. HaiQuynh explains her initial idea of this was for the board to offer more support to Rene and the work she is doing in the business development space. Dr. Jessup expresses concern about multiple people delivering different messages in a well-intended effort to generate new sponsorship relationships. Dana explains a different approach to this committee as one that would develop ideas on ways to increase the awareness of BEF, rather than increase business relationships, i.e. marketing and promotions of BEF among the community at large. Melissa makes a point that this committee needs a clear and appropriate scope that doesn't generate more work for Rene in the end. Melissa recommends we hold off on this until after we have our strategic planning session. Kat asked that marketing/amplification be a part of the strategic planning conversation. The board agrees to table until post-strategic planning.
e. Pass-Through Gifts: Rene discusses pass-through gifts and asks the board for opinions on this before developing a formal policy. The benefits are: raise awareness of BEF, create a fundraising pipeline, relationship-building, slight additional administrative income. Drawbacks are: BEF is not getting the majority of the financial benefit (just a pass-through), BEF isn't set up to manage this process; there is an IRS component to consider - this limits how we would distribute the money and it would look more like a grant. Rene is leaning toward having a narrow policy to make the pass-through grant process limited and clear. Discussion and questions around the frequency of asks (rare) and ways the pass-through process could enhance BEF (increasing "funds received" and growing the endowment). Dr. Jessup gives a realistic example of how this could apply to the corporation's current financial situation and how donors could use BEF as a pass-through to help mitigate the funding deficit. She emphasizes that having a "practice" rather than a "policy" around this will provide flexible boundaries. Rene will work to create a malleable policy.

V. Evaluation Matters.

a. Alyssa Lumley provides a report of the funded 2026 grants and seeks board approval for the awarding of a total of $85,588.23.
    i. Motion: Kevin Hall; Seconded: Dana Thomas; Approved

        unanimously.

b. A discussion of individual board member assessments takes place in small group/partner discussions. Groups share ideas for better understanding including holding ourselves accountable to be more involved, increasing commitment and educating ourselves. The Mission Moment during board meetings is a group favorite that makes it easier for board members to walk out with stories to share.
c. 2026-2027 BEF Calendar
    i. Motion to approve: Kay Fenoglio; Seconded: Kevin Hall; Approved unanimously.
d. Officer Nominations:
   Melissa runs through the slate of officers positions for 26-27: President - Melissa Middleton, President-Elect - Dale Sharpe, Treasurer - Kat Fenoglio, Secretary - Dana Thomas, School Board Representative - Katie Dixon, BCSC Staff Representative - Heather Jones.
    i. Motion to approve: Kevin Hall; Seconded: Ben Behrend; Approved unanimously.
e. Board applications:
   A review of six (6) Board of Directors applications for 2026-27 board service resulted in five (5) applicants receiving unanimous “yes” votes and one (1) applicant receiving unanimous “no” votes.
    i. Motion to approve yes’s: Jeff Smith; Seconded: Kevin Hall; Approved unanimously.
    ii. Motion to approve no: HaiQuynh Jamison; Seconded: Jeff Smith; Approved unanimously.
f. Board of Directors duties:
   A review of Board of Directors duties and feedback is requested for review at home. This content is available on the BEF website in the Board Only section. Feedback is requested to be sent to Rene by May 1.

VI. Incomplete and New Discussions.
Rene explains the Raise the Roof promotion and encourages engagement. Meijer is presenting a check to BEF on Wednesday, April 29. Board members interested in attending should let Rene know.

VII. BEF Board Retirements.
a. Melissa announces the retirements of three board members and thanks those present for their service: Jamie Hall, Kevin Hall and Arthur Hamilton

VIII. Current Sign-Up Opportunities.

a. Staff Awards Reception is on May 7th at 4:30 p.m. Email Rene if interested in attending.
b. Help is needed with assembling golf bags or delivering items to the course on June 11th. Connect with Golf Outing Chair Brian Petraits.
c. Chip in for the Kids Golf Outing is on June 12th and volunteers are needed.

IX. Adjournment at 7:35 p.m.

a. Motion: Kevin Hall; Seconded: Alyssa Lumley; Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Thomas
April 24, 2026