

CLEF Update | February 16 meeting, 6pm | Beth Hautala

Financial Overview

The board approved a motion authorizing Leo to transfer \$10,000 from checking to spending, noting sufficient available funds. This action was recorded at the February meeting to accommodate delayed meeting documentation (initially approved in January).

In addition, \$5,750 was added to committed funds, bringing the year-to-date total of grants funded to \$33,794.

Grant Process and Review

The board held a thoughtful discussion regarding grant submission timelines to ensure clearer budgeting and equitable review across requests. As part of this conversation, potential updates to the grant application were considered, including:

- Documentation of local resources already accessed prior to CLEF funding
- Clearer distinctions among curriculum-based, enrichment/reward, and activity or athletics-related trips
- Guidance and approval expectations related to purchasing physical equipment

Several grant requests were reviewed:

- A \$1,725 request from the Clayton CRESS Track & Field Board was tabled for future consideration.
- A \$600 request for SALT bussing (Thoennes) was approved, with discussion of a possible 50% funding structure in future years.
- A request for sled purchases (Stangel) was declined as not aligned with CLEF's mission, with the shared understanding that *a no now can create space for a stronger yes later*.
- A \$296.45 request supporting a student book publishing project (Thoennes) was approved.

Marketing and Fundraising

The board engaged in a strategic conversation at the Initiative Foundation regarding public relations, donor engagement, and long-term sustainability.

Discussed/considered outreach includes:

Community communications

Inclusion of CLEF messaging in the Community Education catalog

Sharing a GiveMN QR code directly with the Initiative Foundation

Discussion also centered on strengthening CLEF's story—clarifying who we are, why we matter, what we do, and who is impacted, while examining the current donor base. The board noted the importance of understanding the balance of individual versus business donors, addressing an aging donor list, and exploring referral opportunities through existing supporters.

A dedicated future conversation is being considered to more fully address marketing strategy, public relations, and donor development.

Additional Updates

The board briefly discussed improvements to the CLEF portal, including login access, file storage, and organization of meeting minutes. The January 29 meeting at the Initiative Foundation was also referenced for ongoing follow-up.

Next Meeting

The next CLEF meeting is scheduled for March 16, 6pm 2026.