

To: All Heads of NAIS Schools Eligible to Make Proposals to the Edward E. Ford Foundation
Executive Directors of Associations of NAIS Schools
Certain Others Involved in EE Ford Foundation Work

From: John Gulla, Executive Director of The Edward E. Ford Foundation

Re: News from EEFF

Date: June, 2023

The memo from Bob Hallett that accompanies this one was the primary reason for this communication but Bob asked me to explain how my upcoming sabbatical will affect schools seeking placement on future agendas. I will do so, but first a broader introduction is in order.

Some receiving this communication will be asking, *the Edward E. Ford Foundation?* Never heard of it. Now you have. We are a 66 year-old Foundation that has distributed over \$135,000,000 to over 1000 different independent schools and associations. You can learn more about us at www.eeford.org.

Those familiar with us, and maybe with previous such letters from me, might recall that the most recent one went out to you over 4 years ago, deep in the “before-times”. That January, 2019 letter followed similar letters I sent in September 2016, and September 2015, all outlining some of the changes in the Foundation’s operations on each occasion, as well as providing an opportunity for me to introduce the foundation to new heads who might not yet have heard of us.

The Foundation continues to make annual Traditional Grants, the program that goes back to our founding, currently in June each year, we continue to make Educational Leadership Grants, a fifteen year-old program, annually in November, and, as was announced in the January 2019 letter, we more recently added a “Flexible Agenda”, each spring (usually late March, sometimes early April). That Flexible Agenda allows us to consider “Special Grants”, grants made outside of the criteria established for the other two grant-making programs, and/or to consider some Traditional or ELG grants if the queue grows too long.

The implications of my sabbatical will temporarily alter some elements of our calendar. By the time you receive this communication, the Traditional Grant Agenda for June 2024 may be full and have been closed. Schools seeking placement on a future Traditional Grant Agenda can look to June 2025. The Educational Leadership Grant Agenda for November 2023 is already closed and we have selected finalists from those who’ve submitted preliminary ELG proposals.

Those interested in future Educational Leadership Grants are encouraged to learn about them and the process for pursuing one on our website. Those who are placed on the next ELG Agenda, which always starts with a conversation with me, will need to submit a preliminary proposal by May 1, 2024. What will change in our calendar, due to my sabbatical, is that ELG Finalists will meet with the Board in early April, 2025 (either April 1st or 2nd), not November 2024, because I’ll be away that fall. We then expect to return to the current pattern at the Foundation from April 2025 onward. Questions? Please write or call.

While I have this opportunity, just a few more bits of news. Congratulations to all the recent EE Ford grant recipients (those from November 2021 through March 2023, inclusive) who are listed in the [Summer Independent School Magazine](#) (page 29).

I also call out here several grants, from among the many dozens made through the various grant programs, that I think you should know about if you don't already.

- HSBD (Head Search Database) lives on the SAIS website and is developing into a very robust, comprehensive, searchable database that I think all NAIS heads should visit and bookmark. We provided seed money but Debra Wilson and her colleagues at SAIS made this the invaluable tool that it is.
- Head of School Coaching. Grants to Flintridge Prep allowed Peter Bachmann to write a white paper on Coaching (available on our website under Special Grants or [here](#)) and to beta-test a model of HOS coaching in CA. This was followed by a grant to NWAIS where Alan Sparrow and Mark Crotty had developed a different model for head's coaching that Alan is now spreading throughout the country with a handful of other associations pursuing what started at NWAIS.
- Look for news to come about a Deerfield Academy - led task force of a representative group of heads developing a framework to assist schools in wrestling with the critically important issues of freedom of inquiry and expression in our schools.
- NBOA is working on developing a [resource](#) that will live on their website but be publicly available that will be designed for schools looking to explore different models of faculty compensation.
- CIRIS (Center for Institutional Research in Independent Schools) was launched by Maret with support from a 2020 Leadership Grant from us. Check out their [website](#).
- A joint effort on the part of Punahou, Phillips Exeter, Francis Parker (CA) and Wildwood to promote SEEL (Social Emotional Ethical Learning) through a program called P/ATH: Progress Through Athletics looks very promising to me
- "Placed-based education" is thriving at University Liggett School with the help of our grant to facilitate the advancement of place-based humanities education by supporting teachers and students through a National Institute.

These are but 7 of the hundreds of grants we've made since last I wrote to you. I could have listed them all as we're proud of all of them and the work they are making possible.

As to my upcoming sabbatical, I'm very much looking forward to it and then to returning to my work at the Foundation. I am open to all reading and travel suggestions!

I wish for you the necessary time this summer for rest and relaxation.

With kind regards, I am,



Sincerely yours,
John C. Gulla
Executive Director

To: All Heads of NAIS Schools Eligible to Make Proposals to the Edward E. Ford Foundation
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From: Bob Hallett, Chair, and on behalf of The Advisory Board of the EEF Foundation

Re: News from EEFF

Date: June, 2023

As many of you know, in recent years the Advisory Board has engaged with a significant number of you, seeking your ideas about how best to use our resources to advance the stated mission of The Foundation. At first glance, one may think only of our pecuniary assets and how they can best help independent secondary schools via our traditional grants, Educational Leadership Grants, Special Grants, and our Collaborative Innovative Grant. The board remains committed to these initiatives. But there is more to our work.

We are also mindful of our greatest asset; namely, John Gulla, Executive Director, of The Edward E Ford Foundation. For what has now been a full decade, John has been instrumental in continuing to raise the profile of The Foundation among independent schools and associations. He has been a regular contributor to Independent School Magazine and frequently participates on numerous panels and other gatherings at the NAIS Annual Conference, state and regional association meetings, among other independent school gatherings. Since becoming Executive Director, he has personally visited well over 500 schools as part of The Foundation's vetting process. Those visits bring to life your schools as the board carefully reviews proposals and takes into consideration John's observations.

We are pleased to announce that The Advisory Board has approved a six-month sabbatical for John, beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024. It is abundantly clear to the board that John has earned this opportunity for reflection, travel, writing and rest. The board hopes that in addition to providing him time for the above, John will return to the Foundation in 2025 with recommendations and ideas as we continue to refresh our mission. Simply put, we want to continue to harness John's energy, vision and the good will he has developed over the past decade.

The Foundation will remain "open" during John's sabbatical with the following policies in place:

- Megan Kub, John's assistant, will be in the office, fielding inquiries, answering questions and communicating with schools who have received grants about meeting matching requirements, submitting stewardship reports, etcetera.
- The November 2024 board meeting will take place as scheduled, but no grant requests will be entertained at that meeting.
- Schools with questions that can't be answered via the website or through contact with Megan, may request a conversation with Bob Hallett, both former Executive Director and current Chair of The Advisory Committee by calling the office and Megan can help schedule a call as necessary.
- In the accompanying letter, John provides more detailed information regarding how the office will be managed during his sabbatical.

We are confident this respite will serve John and the Foundation well, in addition to you, the beneficiaries of Edward E. Ford's legacy.

Sincerely for The Advisory Board,

Bob Hallett
Chair