



# 2021 Annual Report

ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SINCE 2000

# Letter from President

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In a world of uncertainty, one thing remains certain, our need for community. When schools closed their doors at the onset of the pandemic, we dreamed of the day when our students could once again learn and grow together in a classroom. During remote learning, teachers formed new online communities and learned how to engage students from a distance, while students learned how to collaborate with peers from home. Our traditional ways of teaching and learning were turned upside down and our school community rose to the challenge.

Finding new, innovative ways of doing things is at the heart of the Maynard Education Foundation's (MEF) mission. MEF exists to provide teachers, students, and staff opportunities to pilot initiatives, experiment with new materials, fund enrichment activities, and participate in professional development opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. One of the most exciting and rewarding aspects of MEF is seeing ideas come to life in the schools. MEF funds grants in the areas of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics), ELA (English Language Arts), Physical Education, and more. The grants vary in size and scope—but they each tell the story of how seed money can make a difference in our classrooms.

MEF's grant program would not be possible without the support of our community. We are grateful to the individuals, businesses, sponsors, donors, and volunteers who participate in the Annual Appeal, Teacher Tribute Program, "The Taste" or "Restaurant Appreciation Week." Thank you for donating your time, expertise, and resources so that MEF can continue to fund grants that benefit Maynard Public School (MPS) students in PK – Grade 12.

During my tenure on the MEF Board, it has been my honor to collaborate with other MEF Board members, MPS staff, and community members to fulfill MEF's mission of enhancing educational excellence in the Maynard Public Schools. I have had the privilege of honoring and celebrating teachers at the "The Taste" and at our "Celebration of Teaching & Learning" each year. I have been inspired by the teachers who have received multiple grants over the years, and by the new staff members—all of whom bring energy and creative ideas into their classrooms. As part of my role on MEF, I hear a lot of stories about educators that have made a positive difference in their families' lives. I am proud to be part of an organization that supports our teachers and staff.

Throughout this past year, our community has rallied together to find new ways to support each other and to keep our students learning. While education continues to evolve and schools adapt to the changing environment, the need for a dynamic and high-quality education remains the same. Thank you for being part of a community that values educational excellence in our schools.

In appreciation,



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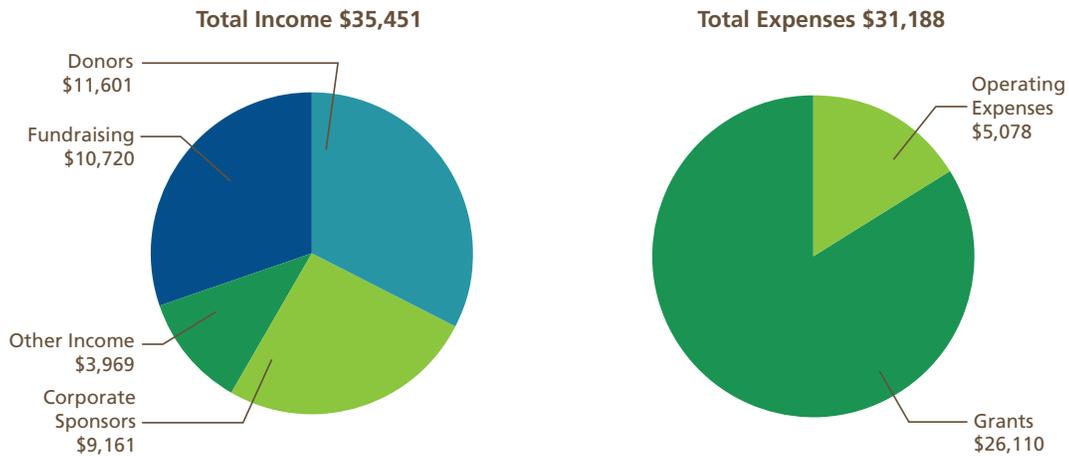
Ms. Ann Stachowicz

Ms. Jennifer Wayne

## Mission Statement

The Maynard Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization that uses its philanthropic contributions to enhance educational excellence in the Maynard Public Schools by funding ideas and projects which promote and celebrate academic rigor and achievement, excitement about learning, and innovation in instruction.

# Financial Information 2021\*



\* Calendar Year

## Supporters

The Maynard Education Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following corporations and individuals whose generous contributions funded innovative learning opportunities in the Maynard Public School system in 2021.

- |   |   |                                 |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Anonymous (9)                                   | Greta Friel   | Open Door Education, LLC*       |
| Acacia Communications, Inc.<br>(Maynard, MA)*   | The Hemm Family   | The Panther Group*              |
| Acton Funeral Home (Acton, MA)*                 | The Herault Family  | Janice Peters                   |
| The Avery Family                                | Hermann Dexter Lodge #133,<br>International Order of Odd Fellows* | The Peters Family               |
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| The DeLand Family                               | The Moore Family  |                                 |
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| Ellen Duggan                                    | Una Frances Murray Family   |                                 |
| Kathleen Ehlers                                 | Tom Muldoon   |                                 |
| Colleen Finnerty                                | The Nauseda Family  |                                 |

* Summa Cum Laude	\$1,500+
~ Magna Cum Laude	\$1,000
^ Cum Laude	\$500
• Dean's List	\$250

# 2020-2021 Grant Highlights

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## STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics)

- Fowler's Makerspace teacher used grant funds to purchase a Glowforge Laser Engraver, air filter, and materials, giving students the opportunity to create their own two-dimensional designs that could be engraved and cut into a variety of projects. Fourth graders hand drew custom bookmarks and keychains, while 7th and 8th graders designed custom wooden signs.

*"I think there is just such high engagement and interest in the ability to laser engrave. It is a powerful tool to say if you follow these steps we can create a real project for you to bring home."*

– Laura Potito, Fowler School

- At Green Meadow, students are using a VEX 123 Robotics classroom bundle of 12 interactive, programmable robots for coding and computer programming sequences. By just using touch, students can control movements and sounds and learn basic logic and problem solving. Students are honing valuable hands-on skills with problem-solving, troubleshooting, invention, and innovation.

*"Students are learning to code and manipulate their robots, learning how to debug and improve their existing processes, as well as learning about how this technology is being used to meet all kinds of needs in our society."*

– Lisa DiSalvatore, Green Meadow Elementary School

- Grant funding for Virtual Reality headsets and devices at Fowler allowed students in Latin class to experience the ancient world in a new and engaging manner. Using virtual reality, students are able to explore historical places around the world, including the Colosseum in Rome!

*"Just hearing the students' excitement when they would walk into class and see the VR headsets ready for them (has been a highlight.)"*

– Adam Steiner, Fowler School

## Professional Development

- Fowler's Speech and Language Pathologist used grant funds to attend dyslexia on-line seminars using Structured Literacy, a phonics-based, systematic, highly structured, and multisensory approach to reading instruction.

*"The instructional strategies are beneficial not only for struggling students in a special education setting, but also for students in the general education setting."*

– Mary Finnegan, Fowler School

## Student Initiatives

- Senior Adam Fowler wanted MHS students to have the opportunity to be part of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), a nationwide non-profit that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. MEF provided funding to start a chapter of the DECA club right here at MHS and students are excited about this new opportunity to build skills that will lead them into the future!

## Remote Learning Support

- When MHS Seniors were unable to complete in-person internships, MHS Senior Project coordinator, Jean LaBelle, identified NEPRIS as a way to give students access to professionals in different careers. Seniors were able to use the subscription for a total of 25 hours—connecting with professionals in different fields ranging from AI software engineers to learning skills such as animation and graphic design.

*“Many students were able to hear directly from people in the industry that they want to pursue. Students gained real insights into a ‘day in the life’ of various careers.”*

– Jean LaBelle-Pierce, Maynard High School

- Grant funds enabled Fowler students to experiment with Mosa Mack, which uses mystery story lines connected to scientific labs and engineering projects to challenge students. Scholastic News provided grade level informational text related to curriculum content areas at Green Meadow and Fowler. Flango Spanish provided digital middle school and high school texts of varied levels to support literacy in the Spanish language.

## Grant Programs

The Maynard Education Foundation (MEF) funds proposals that bring innovative ideas to the Maynard Public Schools and provides opportunities for staff and students that are not typically covered by the district budget. MEF awards three different types of grants:

### Teacher Grants

For pilot programs, materials, resources, guest speakers, enrichment activities, conferences, and professional development opportunities.

### Student Grants

For student-initiated and student-led projects focused on improving the Maynard Public Schools (MPS). The student grant recipient works in collaboration with a MPS educator or staff member.

### Leadership Grants

For administrators seeking to make a difference throughout the school system.

# MEF by the numbers

Total # of Grants for 2021

17



Total # of Grants Since 2000

229

Total # of Student Grants for 2021

3



Total # of Student Grants Since 2010

43



Total \$ of Grants for 2021

\$21,883

Total \$ of Grants Since 2000

\$290,473

Total # of Staff Applying for Grants in 2021

14



Total # of Staff Applying for Grants Since 2000

311

Total \$ Raised During 2021 Restaurant Appreciation Week

\$8,911



Total # of Students Who Have Benefited in 2021

14,800



Total # of Students Who Have Benefited Since 2000

126,212

