



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES ORIENTATION SUMMARY**

### **What is the mission of the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF)?**

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF) is a non-profit educational foundation committed to enriching and investing in the experiences of the Pine-Richland student community through staff grants, student scholarships and community partnerships.

*To accomplish our mission, we:*

- Encourage and invest in innovative instructional efforts to enhance student development and staff engagement.
- Reward and advance academic excellence and achievement through scholarships.
- Recognize and promote the accomplishments of students, teachers, staff, alumni and partners affiliated with the Pine-Richland School District.
- Foster partnerships to maximize resources, raise awareness and enhance financial support of world-class educational and career opportunities for Pine-Richland students.

### **What is PROF's history?**

PROF began in 1994 when grieving father Bill Thorne met with then-superintendent George Szymanski to establish a scholarship in memory of his daughter. Because of the inception of the Anderson Courtney Thorne Scholarship, many scholarships have since been created and funded in memory of loved ones, through business sponsorships, and as “thanks” by members of the community who just want to give back. The impassioned reply by the community to found PROF in 1994, to nurture and administer a single scholarship in response to the grief of one of PR's own, has blossomed into multiple scholarships awarded annually.

PROF has evolved into much more than just a scholarship organization. Over the years, PROF has awarded grants to teachers and staff to fund innovative educational ideas, tools and experiences with funds not otherwise available to them from the school budget. PROF also established the PR Hall of Fame in 2008. The PR Hall of Fame recognizes community members who distinguish themselves through public service, professional contributions, academic achievements or personal achievements.

### **How Does PROF Support the PRSD?**

PROF is an important part of the Pine-Richland community's ability to provide a quality and competitive education for our students. Over the past few years, PROF has expanded the grant rewards to staff members and significantly increased the number of student scholarships. All PROF trustees are committed financially and personally to the core mission of enriching and investing in the educational experiences of our students. We recognize that public education continues to be the fundamental responsibility and obligation of the public. Through PROF's ability to direct community awareness toward the needs in our school district and raise funds for scholarships and grants, we are able to provide unique and enriching educational opportunities for our students that otherwise might not be available or affordable through the district budget.

PROF is an approved educational improvement organization through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Through this designation, PROF may receive contributions under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program. Participating businesses may make contributions towards PROF's *innovative education programs* and be considered for tax credits from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



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### **How does PROF operate?**

- PROF receives contributions and maintains endowments through prudent investment practices.
- PROF distributes a designated portion of those funds each year to support staff-requested grants, student scholarships and special projects. Our goal is to increase our distribution of funds each year.
- PROF's focus over the next term is to increase the endowment and other partnership opportunities by more actively engaging employees, alumni and the community of the Pine-Richland School District.

### **PROF is best known for its Grant and Scholarship Programs. How do they operate?**

- PROF awarded \$36,450 in grants for 2016-2017 across the district.
- Ideal grants are for innovative educational programs, seminars and events that
  - Stimulate students' minds;
  - Use nontraditional methods of learning;
  - Provide unique curriculum opportunities; and
  - Benefit multiple students with strong potential for continuation or replication
- Examples of recent grants: *Joy and Authenticity of Writing Phase IIII* for Eden Hall, Hance, Richland and Wexford Elementary Schools; *MS TV Studio* and *Laser Engraver* for the PRMS Engineering and Technical Education Department; *Dynamic Geometry Software/Chromebooks* for the PRHS Math Department; and *Flexible Seating* for Richland Elementary School.
- PROF awards scholarships to deserving seniors via a highly competitive application process. All of the scholarships are fully funded by individuals, families and community organizations.
- For 2017, PROF awarded nearly \$48,000 to 22 students through 15 community sponsored scholarships.

### **Who are the PROF trustees?**

PROF trustees are selected to represent families from Hance Elementary, Richland Elementary, Wexford Elementary, Eden Hall Upper Elementary, Pine-Richland Middle and Pine-Richland High Schools. Community members of the Pine-Richland School District, representatives of local business/industry and local civic/cultural organizations are also encouraged to serve. Non-voting trustees include administrative, faculty and school board representatives from within the Pine-Richland School District. The voting members of the Board of Trustees comprise the governing body. The current Board of Trustees includes:

#### **Executive Board**

Moira A. Singer, *President*  
Laura Ball, *Vice-President*  
Randall C. King, *Treasurer*  
Sara Antol, *Secretary*

Deborah Lund, *Executive Director*

#### **Board of Trustees**

Charles D. Berry, Keri Brown, Joseph Culos, Kate Eyerman, Leanne Finney, Eric Giesecke, Susan Hong-Bang, David Jeter, Nishat Kazi, James Neill, Terry Pomerleau, Susan M. Shepard, Stacey Silipo, Robin Tino, Christofer Vins (PRSD Faculty Liaison) and Christine Misback (PRSD Board of Directors Liaison)



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### What are the responsibilities for PROF trustees?

- Establish policies to administer PROF;
- Secure funds to support current and future projects;
- Recruit volunteers to sustain the organization;
- Ensure that financial affairs are conducted responsibly; and
- Promote excellence in education for the students of the Pine-Richland School District.

### What are the expectations for PROF trustees?

- Serve up to three, three-year terms.
- Attend regular monthly board meetings and participate in discussions or evaluations by email or ad-hoc meetings as requested or required.
- Serve on at least two committees with active participation. These include:
  - Mission-Focus: Grants, Scholarships, Alumni Relations
  - Operational-Focus: Development, Finance, Marketing/Communications, Nominating
  - Other: Special Events (e.g. Golf Outing, Community/Student Recognition)
- Attend periodic special events as a PROF representative.
- Contribute a monetary donation to PROF. This may be done directly, via an employer-match program or through United Way, Donor Option Number 921848.

**Below is an average expectation of the time required for a PROF trustee.** Overall, we anticipate that PROF trustees spend an average of 10 hours per month on Board/committee meetings, correspondence and assignments. This is determined as follows and varies based on the time of year and committee selections:

- **Board of Trustees Meetings:** 2 hours per month plus preparation time and weekly correspondence (anticipate 2 additional hours per month).
- **Committee Meetings:** Each trustee is asked to serve on at least two committees. Schedules vary based on the committees each trustee selects to join. Estimate 2-4 hours per month for committee meetings plus 2-4 hours per month for committee-related work. This is more extensive for some committees, particularly at certain times of the year.
- **Annual Board Retreat:** 3-4 hours per year.
- **Events:** This area has the most flexibility. We receive several invitations but attendance is based on interest and availability. There is no set requirement or expectation.

### Contact Information

For more information concerning the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund, please contact us at:

Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund  
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United Way Donor Option # 921848  
EIN #25-1732737