

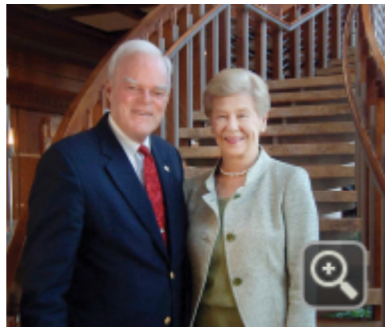
## Goal met for Ogden High fundraising

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### Images



OGDEN — “Magical” is one word used to describe the night of Aug. 17, when the newly renovated Ogden High School Auditorium was unveiled to donors and dignitaries.

Now that word takes on a whole new meaning because Aug. 17 is the night the Ogden School Foundation reached its four-year fundraising goal of \$9 million.

The money will fund full renovation of the auditorium and other projects, such as windows, in the school.

Fundraising efforts started in 2007, before the recession.

“We had high aspirations,” said Alan Hall, co-president of the OHS Catalyst Committee for the capital campaign.

But with the sharp downturn in the economy, foundation investments lost a lot of their value.

“For a moment, we paused and worried a little,” Hall said.

But large donors still stepped up, and donations from more than 1,000 individuals added to the campaign.

The week of Aug. 15 was an amazing one for Ogden School Foundation Director Janis Vause. Two days before the unveiling, she received in the mail a check for \$200,000 from the Spencer F. and Cleone P. Eccles Family Foundation.

“Before we got the check, we were sitting at \$8.6 million,” Vause said.

She hoped just \$50,000 or \$100,000 more would be raised, so the Eccles Family Foundation check was a huge bonus.

“We were running up and down the hall, whooping and hollering,” Vause said.

She felt they were going into the auditorium unveiling strong and pumped up.

As the night unfolded, there was magic in the air, said George Hall, who also served on the Catalyst Committee of the capital campaign.

As the audience cheered and clapped, and as the band played, the feeling in the room was electrifying, George Hall said.

Spencer Eccles agrees. He approached Alan Hall after the program and told him how moved he was by the evening’s events and that he wanted to bring the campaign to a close by donating another \$200,000 to meet the \$9 million goal.

“Wrap it up and put a bow on it,” Eccles told Alan Hall.

"Talk about a heart-stopping moment," Alan Hall said of the moment Eccles told him he would donate the money needed to reach the goal.

He joked as he emceed that they were going to lock the doors so no one could leave until the rest of the money was raised, but he never imagined the goal would be reached that night.

"Thank heavens we're done. We are so grateful to him and his family. What great alumni," Alan Hall said of Eccles.

"My family and I are proud to be part of the incredible, four-year team effort on the part of so many loyal and generous Ogden High Tigers that has made this campaign such a success," Eccles added.

Vause said there were significant \$1 million-plus donors, like the George S. and Delores Dore Eccles Foundation and the Stewart Education Foundation, that made their donations at the beginning of the campaign, so it seemed fitting to finish the campaign with a large donation.

Since the auditorium unveiling, another \$20,000 in donations has been received.

George Hall said the response just shows what Ogden is made of.

"It's amazing the investment this community makes for its children," he said.

"The people who helped and committed to this capital campaign should be applauded and get a big pat on the back."

Vause said the cost of the renovations came closer to \$10 million, and although the active fundraising campaign is closed, donations are still welcomed for the school.