



Parent Teacher Organization

PTO - Surplus Budget Meeting
September 16, 2014 - 6:00pm
Meeting Chair: Missy Ballance

The scope of this meeting was to discuss the utilization of surplus fundraising money from the 2013-2014 school year, by method of granting teacher and staff requests for the 2014-2015 school year.

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00pm

First Order of Business: Revisited from the standard format PTO Meeting on 9/9/14

Request - Financial Software for the Treasurer - not to exceed \$100

Motion to approve: Jennifer Moody

Second: Rebecca Valentino

Decision: Approved - not to exceed \$100

Next Order of Business: Teacher / Staff Request Presentations. This included a four (4) minute timed limit to present requests and answer questions.

Ms. Katie

Request: Pull-down Maps for social studies class = \$719.00 +tax

Researched –best price, includes mounting, free shipping

Problem - Currently no large maps to show students

Who will benefit: Entire middle-school

Maps will include: United States, Europe, Asia, N. America, S. America & Africa

Decision: Approved

Ms. Patty

Request: Montessori Materials for all K-3 \$2000 (split in two portions)

1) Montessori books for parents to learn Montessori method

Research: Montessori Books specifically \$426.65 + shipping = \$49.36

Problem: some families do not fully comprehend the Montessori method. In addition, it would help families continue Montessori methods at home, for continuity.

Who will benefit: Entire school

Decision: Not Approved

2) Additional funds to replace general out-dated and/or no longer useful materials

Researched – No research necessary - \$1,500

Problem - many materials are out of date, and/or useless due to wear and tear

Who will benefit: K-3

Decision: Approved

Ms. Autumn

Request: Two Sets of Class Novels - prices separated below

Research: Scholastic and Amazon.com

Who will benefit: Middle School 6-8 grades

Problem: The books currently available to the class are either out of date and falling apart, or completely different versions of the same novel.

1) Phantom Toll Booth – falling apart \$5.17 / 30 – Amazon = \$155

Decision: Approved

2) Treasure Island – want original language \$3.74 / 50 Scholastic = \$187

Decision: Not Approved - should be able to obtain through Scholastic

Ms. Jacquie

Request: The Amazing Harmonatras – an 1800's time-period performance and workshop group.

Cost is \$450 to entertain and educate the 4th Graders at Sutter's Fort in December, 2014.

Who will benefit: 4th Graders who will attend Sutter's Fort in December, 2014.

Research: The group attended Sutter's Fort in 2013 and were a big success.

Problem: Need Funding

Decision: Approved

Mr. Andrew

Request: 5 tablets for 4th & 5th Grade - to access individualized lesson plans for extra instruction.

Research: Two options:

1) MobyMax - \$1,180 + tax

2) Pioneer - \$1,380 +tax (preferred)

Who will benefit: Grades 4 & 5 - New technology for language arts and math

Problem:

- Limited access to technology
- Current format is not user friendly, time consuming and inefficient
- New technology for language arts and math

Decision: Approved - the \$1,380 +tax preferred option

Ms. Kara

Request #1: School-wide communication system (also requested by Ms. Joanne)– to communicate to families, teachers and staff via phone, email and text, in the case of emergencies, reminders, etc.

Who will benefit: All Dixon Montessori Charter School

Research: 2 options (annual fees)

1) School Messenger \$927.75

2) Blackboard Connect \$1,250

Problem: There is no current communication method to reach out to a large audience in cases of emergency, or general communication.

Decision: Approved - School Messenger Option for \$927.75

Request #2: Drapes for the two rooms with 32' windows

Who will benefit: Room 7 - Grades 2-3 & Room 10 - Grades K-1

Research: \$1,015 includes 45% discount - Fire retardant and meets school standards.

Problem: Curtains would be helpful when the classroom is using technology, to reduce glare. Also, in a case of a lockdown, curtains would create much-needed privacy.

Decision: Tabled for now - to discuss with Dixon Unified

Request #3: Emergency Kits for each Class

Who will benefit: All classrooms and front office

Research: Three options.

A) \$118 - \$135 per room + office based on what is included

B) \$120 / room + office - a bucket for potty needs in case of a lockdown

C) Make the kits ourselves

Problem: There aren't any flashlights, radios, bathroom necessities, etc., to fall back on if there are any emergencies where children are to be kept in a room for a lengthy period of time.

Decision: Tabled for now. May be able to make ourselves/have things donated

Ms. Rachael, Mr. Ben & Ms. Alicia

Request: 9 Chromebooks to be kept in Mr. Rachael's room

specifically for the iReady program, which is a diagnostic testing for reading & math, pinpoints needs to sub-skill level. K-8 are taking the iReady online, currently 75% already taken, by end of September all students will complete the benchmark test. iReady identifies general education students that need targeted and/or accelerated programs. The 5-10 computers will help to keep up with continuous 6-week increments, using modern technology to get the students back in standard classroom.

Research: iReady program is proven to help students

5 Chromebooks for the Academy / Intervention students - 20-30% of school population

4 Chromebooks for the Special Education students - 10% of school population

Problem: There are also 25 reading programs online, but we do not have the proper technology to use them. There are 20 other iReady applications that have been purchased for MAC, but students cannot use the technology.

Decision: Approved - (5) Chromebooks - \$1,500

Ms. Krista

Request: Monitoring & Instructional Software

The middle school would like to purchase an application to allow teachers to keep students on track. Allow teachers to see all students Google app / Email. Gives teachers power, with educational platform. Organizes information in a clear and easy format. Separates information by student, for personalized differentiated learning.

Who will benefit: All middle school & resource teachers can use it.

Research: \$518 - annual subscription (\$6/student)

Problem: There is currently no method for teachers to monitor student online behavior.

Decision: Approved

JoAnn Pereira

Request #1: Basketball Hoop Replaced –

Decision: it's already getting fixed.

Request #2 : Lockers

Who will benefit: Middle School

Research: No price was researched. Ms. Joann researched \$4,000 during the meeting.

Problem: Student backpacks are extremely heavy, due to large volume/size of textbooks

Decision: Not Approved - Not enough information

- Ms Patty suggested- maybe double textbooks instead – one for home, one for school

Ms. Melissa

Request: Document Cameras - “Ladybug”

To accommodate larger groups with visual learning. Help teachers be more technologically skilled, make learning fun and save time.

Who will benefit: All teachers

Research: Quantity to be determined - up to \$2000 - Is an accessory to the projectors purchased last year.

Problem: To avoid erase, re-create, re-copy, etc., for visual lessons.

Decision: Approved

Angele Boudreaux, Per Ms. Stacy's Request

Request: Pizza Night Stickers

Who will benefit: All DMCS

Research: \$275 = 6000 to cover stickers for two years

Problem: Previous method needs to be replaced

Decision: Declined. Donny Everhart offered to get stickers donated

Ms. Kelly

Request: Shade structure for playground

Who will benefit: All DMCS

Research: Costs need to be addressed, may be up to Dixon Unified

Problem: In hot summer months students cannot swing on bars, use the slide, etc

Decision: Table for further discussion.

Ms. Jezebel

Request: Playground Balls for recess

Who will benefit: Each Grade Level

Research: \$54

Problem: Though we received the grant from WalMart to purchase the 4-Square Stencils and 50-State Stencil; we still need the playground balls.

Decision: Approved

- **on behalf of Ms. Guadalupe –**

Request: AudioBooks to go w/ personal CD players - Introduces new genres, new vocabulary, difficult names to pronounce, etc.

Who will benefit: beneficial for gifted, 2nd language, non-readers, etc. –

Research: \$121 through Scholastic K-1 (Local grant may be available)

Decision: Tabled for next PTO Meeting

- **on behalf of Ms. Heidi**

Request # 1: Color blocks, kids value Sitting Rug

Who will benefit:

Research: \$171 – carpet to know where to sit K-1

Decision: Tabled - to check Scholastic

Request # 2: Listening Center

Who Will Benefit:

Research: Wayfare.com \$97.99 ea. \$92 portable CD Player = \$152 / person

Decision: Approved

Mr. Andrew

Request: Stability balls (4)

Who will benefit: Give students opportunity to move around a little bit

Research: \$172

Problem: Some students have a hard time sitting still. These stability balls are proven to improve focus.

Decision: Approved

JoAnn Pereira

Request: Purchase a surplus of spirit shirts to save money on bulk order, and sell throughout the year.

Decision: This is being taken care of already.

Missy - on behalf of a parent

Request: Purchase 5 microwaves for classes w/ students that use microwaves for lunch

Who will benefit: Middle School students who would like to microwave lunches

Research: n/a

Problem: Students who prefer to microwave their lunch do not have access to microwave.

Decision: Denied

Missy

Request: Stability balls (4) additional to Andrew's request

Who will benefit: Give All DMCS as needed

Research: \$172

Problem: Some students have a hard time sitting still. These stability balls are proven to improve focus. Teachers/staff can check them out to use as necessary.

Decision: Approved