**PTO Minutes: December 1, 2015**

1. **Welcome**
2. **Building Report:**

**2015 December UPES School Accountability Report**

**Relationships, Rigor, and Opportunity:**

**Veteran’s Day Concert:** Our Veteran’s Day concert featured guest speaker and US Army Veteran, Jeffery Purdue. In addition, Mr. Weimer put together a moving and beautiful musical tribute featuring our 3rd through 6th grade students. A big thank you to Mr. Dooley and our local Cub Scout Pack 33 for their help honoring our veterans.

**High Altitude Youth and Overture Choirs Concert:** Our partnership with the Kirkpatrick Family Foundation and Arts 14 resulted in a beautiful concert at the Sallie Bush Center on November 19.

**Mill Levy Override:** We wanted to thank the voters of District 14 for supporting our kids’ future.

We will continue to work hard in the coming years to provide the kind of enriching, innovative, rigorous, loving school that you all expect and make possible.  We are so thankful for all of you and are honored to serve your families.

**Progress Toward our Goals (carried over from November report):**

* 1. **Student Learning Goal:** All teachers have established learning goals that they will revisit with students and myself across the year.
  2. **Reading and Math Assessments:** We are assessing whole school reading and math three times this year (fall, winter, spring). Currently we only have the fall baseline data.
  3. **Better Content/Hands On Learning:** Teachers are focusing on developing “Up and Out of the Seats” units to bring CKLA alive.
  4. **CKLA Response:** Teachers report being pleased with the richness and rigor of our new content. They report seeing longer retention with some of the new stories they are using in the classroom.

**Summary of 2014 – 15 District-Wide Evidence of Growth & Learning:**

1. **Financial Report:**

20K currently in our accounts. Paid Mr. D $540 dollars for STAR program. Tap has currently spent $330.

Brief report on focus and purpose of the 20K:

Each year we have a 5K working budget and keep even. A portion will be donated to build the walking track.

**Funding requests:**

**Funding Request 1:** DI request. Jamie Montoya-De Smidt: DI Important to the community. For fee, cost $90 to participate. Registration fees were waived this year to increase participation of lower income students. Additional fees requested not anticipated.

22 – in the past

17 – competed last year

32 – now (five teams)

The hope is that we’ll have five teams that move to competition by the end of February.

DI Regional Director has not set the date for the regional completion.

Jamie will look into hosting it here at MSSD.

PTO discusses the large request = $650. Requested funds would be used to pay competition costs and materials. PTO asks, “Where have we looked for money before PTO?” Currently, DI has not sought funds elsewhere. $600 is a hard number for PTO. Funded by the school or funded by the families.

The district will pay for the competition fee $100 per team (cost of competing).

The district has paid $150 for one team, one set of materials. The district will cover the 100 regional per team. Regional and then if they go to State.

PTO Decision: Seek other sources first and ask the parents to contribute approximately $20. Whatever not raised can be brought to PTO again at a later date.

We are asking for $20 to support DI from all the DI families.

Idea of a DI Dance – PTO will find the money for you. Try to get it from the parents first. If we can’t we’ll fund-raise.

Idea: should we look at a cheaper option through Odyssey of the Mind? This would need to be considered on a district level, not just at UPES.

Jamie will research the state levels costs.

If we go to state and need a bus, the building can cover that.

**Funding Request #2:** 3D printer proposed by Greg DiFiore, Taylor Weimer – Answer questions and come to January meeting.

Discussion: What are our priorities for fundraising: STEM – or Technology and Robotics? Discussion about how to get more information regarding maintenance and more extensive district support for this type of programming. Taylor and Greg will research and return in January with an update.

Specific questions for Greg, Taylor, and Chris to follow up on:

1. If 3D printers are important to STEM learning, will the district budget both support, personnel, and funding to the acquisition of other ones in the future?

2. Can and will the district support maintenance and ongoing costs?

**5. Fundraising**

**Pony Run Fundraising:** We need to know the answers to these questions. IN order to apply to some of the donations, we need to send the requests now. We need to decide on where the money is going. Running track.

Jenny will focus the fundraising letters toward STEM and/or Robotics.

**Breakfast with Santa** – Starts at 9 AM. Wonderful event – free. Family friendly. Dads behind the counter. Wonderful preparation and a huge thank you to Nancy May.

Craft Day Update: Planning is going great. Two volunteers per classroom. Six grade will be disbursed throughout the lower grades. Student council from high school coming up.

Three crafts have been planned. Supply list is ready. Samples together. Directing the volunteers that day.

Can PTO provide snacks for the volunteers? Fruit tray, veggie tray, etc. Or put it on the sign up genius?

Have snacks in the library

Craft day has been marvelously organized. Big thank you to Jenny Kowal.