

# **Cedar Hill Independent School District**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Meeting Date:** March 4, 2013

**Presented by:** Mr. Horace Williams, Superintendent of Schools

**Subject:** Resolution for Criminal Justice Division Grant

### **Action Item**

#### **BOARD GOAL:**

Expect, promote and support a safe and orderly environment.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office offers grant funding to local education agencies, non-profit agencies, and other government agencies to provide programs that will prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. Any agency can submit multiple applications, as long as the projects would provide completely different services or serve different populations. The funding for each project is up to \$80,000 and there is no fund matching requirement. Cedar Hill ISD prepared three projects, which are summarized below. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office requires that the governing board of the submitting agency sign a resolution, verifying its approval of the projects submitted.

**Linking School and Community to Prevent Delinquency:** this application proposes to improve safety and school climate at Cedar Hill High School through the addition of community resources at the high school. Included in the grant would be a community resource liaison whose job would be to increase the presence of adults at the campus (through community partnerships) who will help to connect with our students, direct our students toward positive behavior, and provide resources that will assist with drug prevention and violence prevention. This proposal also includes safety equipment, including portable metal detectors. These metal detectors would be used for big events that need security (i.e., football games) but not for daily use at our campus. In addition, this proposal seeks to increase the number of campus visits by our drug dogs (to help detect the presence of illegal substances at our high school campus).

The Project Restart Project proposes to provide daily services to students who are currently engaging in serious or violent behaviors (grades 9 -12). This program would utilize the format of 2 local credit courses that would teach the students social responsibility along with agriculture, gardening, and culinary skills. The students would be transported to Cedar Valley College to take these two courses at the end of the school day. Additionally, the students would receive the services of a social worker that would include case management services, parenting classes for parents, and helping the student to stay on track with behavior and academics at school. This proposal would also utilize counseling

and social work interns to provide sufficient services to 120 students for the school year.

The Longhorn STEER (Support, Training, Education, Empowerment, and Results) Project would provide mental health services to students in grades K-8 who have obtained multiple behavior referrals. Through this project, a mental health coordinator would oversee a team of school psychology and counseling interns providing counseling, behavioral consultation, and parenting classes to students who are identified. This project would serve 150 students in grades K-8.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Cedar Hill Independent School District School Board approve the application of the three grant projects to the Criminal Justice Division of the Texas Governor's Office.

**BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:**

Approve the Board Resolution and acceptance of grant funds, if awarded.

**POLICY AUTHORIZATION:**

FFC(LEGAL)

**CONTACT PERSON (S):**

Dr. Chanda McGhee, Director of Student Support and Community Services

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

N/A

**ENCLOSURES:**

See attachments: