Three Rivers School District
Quality Education Runs Deep

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date:	9-15-17	**Superintendent:**	Dave Valenzuela
Administrator/Staff:	Lori Conner/ Dave Shindleman		
Type of Item:	☐ *Informational*	☒ *Action*	

Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?

I am seeking approval from the board to apply for a classroom grant of $1470 to purchase science equipment from the Northwest Community Credit Union PROJECT COMMUNITY.

Provide history/background information on your proposal:

This grant offers classroom funding for teachers and schools from twelve Oregon counties. Oregon science standards are transitioning to the Next Generation Science Standards model. At Three Rivers, teachers and district personnel are discussing how to implement the new standards to improve classroom instruction. We need to purchase equipment to fully implement the new standards.

List the advantages of your proposal:

With the equipment the grant could provide, students will benefit from a more hands-on/ investigative approach to learning science in the classroom. Much of our current equipment is old and unserviceable. At Fleming, I receive approximately $500 per year to purchase, repair, or service our classroom equipment as well as for purchasing consumables. This is not enough for a science classroom given the new curriculum we are planning to implement.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

The only possible disadvantage I can forsee is that other teachers will probably be applying for this grant and there might be some sort of limit that Northwest Community Credit Union will grant per school district or school. I might be competing with, and end up displacing another TRSD grant request.

List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?

If this grant does not get rewarded to FMS, then hopefully the school district will be able to provide the funding though another avenue. If not, I will seek extra money from Ms. Conner. If that isn't an option, I will continue to seek outside/private rescources available. If that doesn't work I will need to change my year long plan to accomplish what I can, with the materials we currently have available.			
Superintendent's recommendation(s):	**Approve:**	Yes ☒	No ☐

Northwest Community Credit Union PROJECT COMMUNITY Grant Request
David Shindelman
Fleming Middle School
7th Grade Science

Summarize your Request:

Tell us what are you requesting and why are you requesting it in 1-2 sentences. This provides a quick reference for the selection committee. **I am requesting Science equipment to support the transition from the current science standards based curriculum to a more hands on, investigative, STEM oriented NGSS curriculum.**

* Total Amount Requested: **$1470**

Requests between $100 - $1,500 will be considered. Requested amount must fully fund items requested.

Number of Students Impacted: **435**

GRADE LEVEL: **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

* What is needed?

Describe your request and how funds will be utilized in specific detail. A list of all materials requested and itemized budget are required. If requesting technology, provide brand name and specifications (memory, processor speed, screen size, etc.). Include web links whenever possible.

Requests to fund the following are not eligible:

- **fundraising events or sponsorship requests**
- **funding for staffing**
- **staff professional development/training**
- **incentives/rewards**
- **capital improvements to school buildings or grounds.**

1. ***16 digital scales X $24.99 = $399.84
(https://www.amazon.com/American-Weigh-Scale-Scalemate-Digital/dp/B0012TEQMG) For more accurate measurements than existing Triple beam balances in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Allows students to accurately measure gases and other minute quantities during labs.
2. ***5 Molecule Modeling kits with Add a Group x $145.60 = $728
(https://store.lab-aids.com/kits-and-modules/details/Modeling-molecules-of-life-modeling) Build molecules and describe their structure and function in living organisms
3. ***Bromethyl Blue $19.90
(https://www.carolina.com/specialty-chemicals-b-c/bromthymol-blue-powder-reagent-grade-5g/849152.pr?question=bromothyl) Labs to show how oxygen and carbon dioxide are exchanged during life processes.
4. ***Snapware® Airtight Food Storage 29-Cup Rectangular Container w/ Handle $7.99 x 30= $239.70
(Walmart.com) Provide aclosed environment to experiment with changes in plant ecosystems.
5. ***Glass Petri Dishes 12 x $6.90 =$82.80
(https://www.carolina.com/lab-dishes/pyrex-petri-culture-dish-100-x-15-mm/741158.pr?question=Petri) Explore Combustion for later analogy to use of gases by living organisms.

* Why is it needed?

Science curriculum is changing nationwide to drive science education towards an investigative and cooperative learning environment. Although Fleming teachers have worked hard to offer our students a quality science education within the limits of our district's' economic challenges, we want to provide the sort of education needed to give our students opportunities to be successful in whatever science careers they might be inspired to achieve. To succeed within the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) curriculum, we need to shift our style of teaching to create the mentally challenging environment the standards require. A major impediment for us to offering what our students deserve, and our district cannot afford, is for us to acquire the classroom equipment and materials needed to fully implement the NGSS curriculum.

How will fulfilling this need impact the education of kids?

Describe how it will enrich or enhance classroom-learning/instruction, increases student engagement and/or achievement. Tell us if it provides a learning opportunity that wouldn't otherwise be available.

By purchasing the equipment requested through this grant, we will be able to use the majority of our available school budget over the next few years to purchase the expendable supplies required on a daily basis to implement the labs and activities that are aligned with the NGSS curriculum. We will use the BSCS set of highly investigative lessons known as Carbontime, to enhance our science instruction by doing hands-on exploration labs leading to understanding the transformation of Matter and Energy through the environment. The scales will be used curriculum wide to replace far less accurate triple beam balances. Modeling kits will allow students to visualize structure and function of organic molecules involved in plant and animal growth, and make predictions about changes that occur in those molecules in nature. The food storage containers will act as sealed environments by groups of students for testing variables that affect plant growth.

WILL OTHER FUNDING BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS REQUEST? **YES**

IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN:

Science teachers have received $500 per year for classroom supplies. This money will be used for expendables and other less expensive equipment needed to do the activities in class: i.e.: plant food, plant gel, ionic grow, ziploc bags, twist ties, foil, straws, smaller plastic containers, and other materials/equipment.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT PROJECT COMMUNITY?

Email from principal

AWARD DISBURSEMENT $ AGREEMENT