

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA

<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Special
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(A) Report Only Recognition

Presenter(s):

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

(B) Action Item

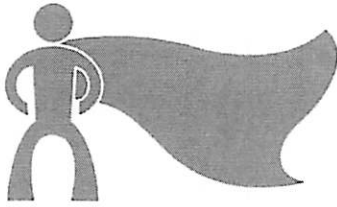
Presenter(s): SAMUEL MIJARES, ASST. SUPT. FOR C & I
 ELIZABETH TORRES, SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION FROM EAGLE PASS HEROES, INC. OF MINI iPADS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOMS.

(C) Funding Source: Identify the course of funds if any are required

(D) Clarification: Explain any question or issues that might be raised regarding this item.



Eagle Pass HEROES, Inc.

401 Quarry Street
Eagle Pass, Texas 78852
eaglepassheroes@gmail.com

February 2, 2016

Ms. Lupita Fuentes
President
Eagle Pass Independent School District
Board of Directors

Re: Donation of Mini Ipads to Special Education Classroom

Ms. Fuentes:

On behalf of Eagle Pass HEROES, Inc., we would like the Board of Directors for the Eagle Pass Independent School District to approve the donation of Mini Ipads to the special education classrooms on all campuses.

We have secured funding to purchase and distribute a total of 46 Mini Ipads. The cost of the Ipads including the protective cases and related purchasing costs is \$300 each. The total value of the donation is \$13,800.00. We anticipate delivering the first 36 Ipads in the month of February 2016 and we anticipate delivering the remaining 10 Ipads in the month of March 2016.

Our organization was formed to assist children in our area who have special needs obtain resources that will assist in their developmental and educational success. The first fundraising campaign for our organization was the Ipad campaign. The purpose behind the donation of the Ipads to the special education classrooms is to put proven technology in the hands of the children who can benefit from it the most. Numerous studies have supported the use of devices such as Ipads for the development and education of children with special needs.

There are 5 key features that make the iPad most beneficial to helping children with disabilities¹:

1. Accessibility Features

The iPad comes with accessibility features – built-in modifications that make it easier for users with visual, auditory or other physical disabilities to use iPad. This includes VoiceOver, Zoom,

¹The information related to features of Ipads is reproduced from an article published by Shoshana Stopek in the March 26, 2013 edition of Mommy Tech Bytes; <http://www.mommytechbytes.com/2013/03/26/5-ways-the-ipad-helps-children-with-disabilities/>

White on Black, Mono Audio, and Speak Auto-Text. Many children have limited ability to interact with toys for typical developing children and therefore their play and readiness skills for school are limited. The accessibility features that come standard on all Apple products meet many needs for children with disabilities.

2. Special Education Apps

The App Store has apps designed for people with disabilities that further support its accessibility features, such as the SoundingBoard,(create customs boards for communication) Proloquo2Go (touch-to-speak), SoundAmpR (auditory amplification), and more. These apps and others are highlighted on the Apple Store's own Special Education section featuring apps for Communication, Emotional Development, Seeing & Hearing, Language Development, Literacy & Learning, Organization, and Diagnostics & Reference.

3. Over 20,000 Education Apps for iPad

Apple recently announced at their Education Event that 20,000 education apps have been built for the iPad. They highlight their education apps with links to the App Store on their website. This variety gives educators, parents and children a chance to explore and utilize a vast range of content.

4. Portability

The iPad is completely portable. While desktop computers and laptops posed obvious challenges for those with limited mobility, the iPad can be easily positioned to accommodate a variety of positions – seated, supine, prone and lying down. Many companies are also creating accessories for iPad to help mount and position the iPad in various ways to make it more accessible to people with physical disabilities.

5. Motivation

It is well known that iPad touch technology supports interactive features that include drag and drop, tap, swipe, shake and drawing. These features add an element of fun to activities, making many apps a cross-over between “educational” and “games.” This creates motivational incentive for children to engage who might otherwise be less motivated.

As the parent of a child with autism, I have seen firsthand the benefits technology such as the Ipad can have for a child with special needs. Thanks to the generous support of our community partners, we have been able to secure the funding to acquire these devices for the children in the special education classrooms at EPISD. We need your approval to put them in their hands.

This donation is conditioned on the district's agreement that these devices will remain in the special education classrooms designated by our organization and will be for the exclusive use and benefit of the children with special needs located in those classrooms.

I am available to answer any questions related to our campaign and the purpose behind our organization. I appreciate your prompt and courteous attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Catrina Purcell Longoria, Executive Director

Eagle Pass HEROES

Helping

Everyone with special needs gain

Resources for

Outcomes to guide

Educational

Success



Eagle Pass HEROES
2016 iPad Drive
Early Childhood

	1 st iPad Date Given	Donor	2 nd iPad Date Given	Donor
KH	February 2016	Bravo Diesel	February 2016	Bravo Diesel
LDC	2/3/16	Libson Family	February 2016	Aguila Construction
ECC	2/3/16	Libson Family	February 2016	Aguila Construction
RVLA	2/3/16	Libson Family	February 2016	Aguila Construction

Elementary

	1 st iPad Date Given	Donor	2 nd iPad Date Given	Donor
Ray Darr	February 2016	Aguila Construction	March 2016	TBD
Graves*	February 2016	Aguila Construction	February 2016	Rodees'
Glass*	February 2016	Aguila Construction	February 2016	Rodees'
Robert E. Lee	February 2016	Aguila Construction	March 2016	TBD
San Luis	February 2016	Aguila Construction	March 2016	TBD
Kirchner	February 2016	Aguila Construction	March 2016	TBD
Rosita Valley	February 2016	Aguila Construction	March 2016	TBD
Benavides*	February 2016	Aguila Construction	February 2016	Edward Garza
Seco Mines*	February 2016	Aguila Construction	February 2016	Edward Garza
Sam Houston	12/15/15	Longoria & Maurer	March 2016	TBD
Pete Gallego	February 2016	Aguila Construction	March 2016	TBD
Henry B	February 2016	Aguila Construction	March 2016	TBD
Liberty*	February 2016	Aguila Construction	February 2016	Castillo Family
Cerna	February 2016	Aguila Construction	March 2016	TBD
Graves Al	February 2016	Aguila Construction	March 2016	TBD

Secondary Schools

	1 st iPad Date Given	Donor	2 nd iPad Date Given	Donor
Memorial Junior	February 2016	Aguila Construction	February 2016	Kunafin
EPJHS	February 2016	Aguila Construction	February 2016	Kunafin
EPHS	February 2016	Aguila Construction	February 2016	Kunafin
CC WINN	February 2016	Aguila Construction	February 2016	Kunafin

2016 iPad Drive for Special Education Classrooms

The purpose of this iPad drive is to gift out iPads to all the special education classrooms in our Eagle Pass ISD school district. The researched based studies give us evidence based purpose to draw on the conclusion that children with special needs will be able to learn things taught in the classroom in a motivated drive technology way. iPads provide our children with special needs transited motivators with visual learning systems to generalize skills in applications. They are able to give a voice to our children with special needs through augmentative communication applications, and increase language acquisition.

This iPad drive will provide all the special education classrooms with an iPad mini and a protective case. This iPad will be used for personalized use in the classroom so that applications can be individualized to tailor to the students' needs.

Various individuals and community businesses have donated their time and money to grant these iPads in the special education classrooms. As this project has evolved we will continue to collect iPads to increase the number of this technology device in our community. We foresee the growth of this project not just in our classroom throughout EPISD, but as our community as a whole.

"If it will benefit my son in the classroom, then all the other kids will benefit too." - EPISD parent

Thank you,

Eagle Pass HEROES Board of Directors

Wendy Maurer, Catrina Purcell Longoria, Elizabeth Perez, & Nikolas Libson

eaglepassheroes@gmail.com

830.776.3991



Eagle Pass HEROES

Helping
Everyone with special needs gain
Resources for
Outcomes to guide
Educational