



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: June 21, 2016 Superintendent: David Holmes

Administrator/Staff: Kristen Halvorsen (Durboraw) HVHS

Type of Item: Informational Action

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

We are asking permission to request and accept if chose a donation grant for \$3,000 from the Grants Pass Active Club for the purpose of restarting and developing the HVHS Drama Club. We would like to establish a working fund for equipment, scripts, materials, International Thespians activities, etc.

Provide history/background information on your proposal:

There is no existing fund and hasn't been for a while. Extra duty for Drama productions has been reinstated and Ms. Halvorsen and ms. Wagner are agreeing to share the duties. We will need a solid fund to get productions off the ground.

List the advantages of your proposal:

This donation will help us put on quality shows and get a good running start to inspire future student involvement. We are aiming high with our request so we may get less but anything will help.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

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

We will also pursue other donors, grants and fundraising oportunities.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes No

Grants Pass Active Club

Donation Request Form

Since 1959, The Grants Pass Active Club has held Boatnik every Memorial Day weekend in Grants Pass. The activities start Thursday evening in Riverside Park with the Carnival. Saturday morning is the well-known Boatnik parade. After the parade makes it's way through Grants Pass, the focus of Boatnik then shifts to the park and river where there is a whirlwind of activities including boat racing, arts and crafts, food vendors, pizza eating contest, a children's free ID booth and various other shows and displays. Memorial Day is the highlight of Boatnik with the running of the WORLD FAMOUS WHITE WATER HYDROPLANE RACE.

Members of the Grants Pass Active Club volunteer their time and resources to make this a wonderful event. All the money raised from Boatnik is used to help local youth in the form of donations such as: educational scholarships, team sports, gymnastics equipment, medical needs for individual children, scouting, AR reading programs for elementary schools, playground equipment for both schools and local parks as well as donations to local organizations that support children in our community.

(Please fill out the following information)

Name of Individual or Organization: Hidden Valley High School Drama Club

Amount Requested: \$ 3000

Date Needed: September 2016

Contact Person: Phone: Kristen Halvarson 541-218-2592

Briefly describe how funds will be used (use back of sheet if needed):

We need a working fund for script purchases, royalties (if needed), lighting equipment and upgrades, lighting gels, costumes and props (if not available through Darnstormers or GHS), publicity, sets and stage units, paint, tools, lumber, canvassing, construction and materials for a set of teaser curtains, possible installation of a cyclorama curtain, and main curtain repair. Funds could also help the club get off the ground with International Thespians and help the students get to competitions and events with them, as well as to other regional theater activities.

Please attach any additional information you think may be useful.

If additional funds are being requested from other sources or individuals, please list how much and total amount required for your purpose: _____

Please mail this form to **Grants Pass Active Club P.O. Box 961, Grants Pass, OR 97528**. You may also fax it to (541) 476-9700 or drop it off at Jim Sigel Automotive.

"NO MAN STANDS AS TALL AS WHEN HE KNEELS TO HELP A CHILD"

Additional information re: Hidden Valley Drama Club

It's been a number of years since there has been a functioning Drama program at HVHS, so there are some serious gaps in all aspects of restarting it, as I noted on the application page. I'd like to address the value to students.

I've had the awesome pleasure and responsibility of teaching drama, acting, and directing stage productions off and on over my teaching career, most notably as the drama director and acting teacher and International Thespians coach at Illinois Valley High School for four years and one year at Brighton Academy, with some stints also teaching acting at North Valley and Hidden Valley. I also participated in such activities in my own elementary, high school, and college years. What I saw in action is that these skills and activities benefit all kinds of young people in all kinds of ways. There is a common misconception that certain kinds of very outgoing, dramatic, funny, or even "quirky" students are the only one that benefit, but that is absolutely wrong. The skills involved in learning acting, stage production, technical aspects, and direction are valuable in many fields and for many types of students. Just the simple skill of modulating one's "presentation" to fit with a certain "audience" or "situation" is incredibly valuable. I've taught MANY students who normally are "shy" or maybe feel "awkward," and we've given them the skills and power to overcome those tendencies, to get in touch with inner strength and other characteristics of themselves, and to empower them with situational "courage." On the other end of the continuum, we've helped the "classic drama club students" (the outgoing, funny, and quirky) to modulate and harness those tendencies as well, to bring it all under control and see it all as a serious discipline. There is a benefit for all students on all parts of the continuum, commensurate with the individual. I've never seen a student not grow in some way, either through our drama productions or our acting classes.

Just putting up quality shows in a school is inspirational and generates pride in our school and community. In my program, we do serious work and put up quality, literary shows...not to say only serious, non-comedic plays, but rather

great pieces of literary work: Shakespeare, Molière, Coward, Wilder, Euripides, etc. I did one "cheesy, written-for-high school" play, ONE TIME, by what we thought was popular demand, only to determine that I would never do that again. If we set the bar of expectation higher, they WILL rise to the occasion...and we proved that every time. Our audiences were pleased, to say the least, and our program grew to become respected, admired, and very popular in the community. I was so proud of my crews, and they were proud of themselves as well. They came away with skills and empowerment they never would have gained without that program. Even students who only took the Acting classes but were never in productions gained a great deal of the same things.

We would be so blessed with your support to restart the HVHS Drama Club program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen Halvorsen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Halvorsen', written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.