

School Board Meeting:

January 12, 2009

Subject:

Donations/Grants

Presenter:

James Bauck

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Discussion

DESCRIPTION:

Current Practice

- ✓ D/G money is accepted for student instructional day personnel and program if said funds are used for a pilot program or new program (3 year commitment).
- ✓ D/G money has not been used for budget cut restoration either on a short or long term basis.
- ✓ D/G money has been used to fund programs and personnel outside the student instructional day.
- ✓ PTA or fund raising to assist with the defraying of a program cost, field trip, special presenter, or writer in residence etc. has been allowed.

*Montrose Suzuki and the BHS music lessons are provided via community education. The students are charged a fee to participate covering the cost of the instruction. The lesson time in the high school is part of the student's music class. The design of the Montrose Suzuki program was also intended to capture non-classroom time for lessons. The Montrose Suzuki program is supplemented with donations; however, the donation distribution system is outside of the school district. Both of these programs technically meet the above criteria, but could be considered borderline at best. The district, based on clarification from MDE, loses state aid while these students participate in the community education programs.

Fees

- ✓ The district has attempted to closely monitor fee assessment over the past decade in an attempt to limit fees to ensure program and service access for all students.
- ✓ Copies of the statutes governing student fees are attached.

Questions/Issues

- ✓ Should residents who are interested in restoring budget reductions for one year (or longer) until another levy referendum can be voted on by the public or funds derived from the state be allowed to donate funds to keep select programs, services or personnel in place?
- ✓ If the district allows D/G to restore a budget reduction will it also allow the same process to initiate and sustain new programs, services, and personnel?
- ✓ Should funds raised by outside entities be allowed to target certain personnel, services, or programs thereby determining what the district retains or offers?
- ✓ Can a donation practice be implemented to ensure equity of programs, services, and personnel across the entire district?
- ✓ What messages are sent to the community if programs, services, and personnel are funded with either D/G? Is the message the community does not have to raise its taxes for school funding?
- ✓ What message is sent to the community if the district does not accept donations to fund programs, personnel, and services?
- ✓ Will D/G efforts raise sufficient funds on a timely basis?

- ✓ What does sufficient funds mean and who will define it?
- ✓ Will the funds derived from D/G be sustainable over time?
- ✓ What should be the role of community education in providing programs to replace reductions?
- ✓ What would be appropriate timelines in order for a D/G to work as part of the budgeting process?
- ✓ Should there be a single entity for fund raising etc. versus a number of sources?
- ✓ How does the school board wish to address groups interested in restoring or initiating new programs via fund raising?