

H.W. Mountz PTA Minutes

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

8:42 am Call to Order

Item 1 for discussion: Blue Ribbon Award Shirts

Blue Ribbon Award t-shirts for staff and all students requested by Mrs. Walsifer for the school wide celebration on 12/17/2015. \$2200.00 requested for this item. \$700.00 allotted to climate committee will be used; the request will exceed this line item by \$1560.00. MOTION made to spend the additional \$1560.00 for Blue Ribbon t-shirts. Motion APPROVED.

Item 2 for discussion: Stand-Up Desk Initiative

Mrs. Walsifer spoke regarding the initiative. The following will be piloted: 18 desks in one third grade room, 15 desks in one fifth grade room, 4 desks in second grade, and 2 desks in each first grade room. The pilot will run from January through June 2016.

>Question raised regarding the height of the desks; desk height adjustable.

>Question raised re. the rotation of the desks among students; teachers will use classroom management to handle this and all students will be using the desks in turn.

>Question raised why pilot cannot outfit the entire primary grades with desks; teachers would like to start small and observe academic performance first.

>Question raised re. how the pilot will be evaluated; student/parent feedback, teacher tracking (behavior/academic performance) two times, once in February/March and again in June. All desks in pilot will be provided with stools as well.

>Question raised why middle school is not being piloted; movement occurring much more throughout the day in middle school and more enthusiasm observed from the primary school teachers.

>A comment was made that 5th grade is the ideal, transitional year to pilot as it somewhat tests both the primary and middle school. >Question was raised if surrounding high schools have begun this initiative; not at this time, not able to budget for them.

>Question raised how Sea Girt School pilot is progressing; too difficult to compare as Sea Girt has a much smaller pilot than what Mountz will have.

>Question raised regarding piloting the 6th grade next year as well; should funding be available through PTA, yes. If not, the Administration will request from SLED.

>Question raised if the PTA is exploring any additional initiative to fund; A Virtual Learning Lab. and air-conditioning for the building. Comment made regarding the need for a Language Lab.

>Question raised re. academic assessment of the pilot program; administration currently has baseline data without the desks. They can then further assess and use the desks as a single variable.

>Question raised regarding budget; BOE is not paying, nor is SLED at this time. A request will go out to both the BOE and SLED to participate in Phase 2 of the pilot once the first proves successful.

>Question raised re. backs to stools; according to other pilots, stools became obsolete. The pilot will test if the backs will be necessary in our school. Question raised regarding the purchase of the “fidget bar”; the bar is an accessory and can be removed.

>Comment was made by a SLED member that the group will fully support the initiative.

>Comment made that Mountz could fundraise to complete the total cost of the initiative, if needed.

Jason Martin made a MOTION for the PTA to fund 45 stand-up desks for the pilot program of the Stand-up Desk Initiative. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 9:32 am.

Submitted by: Emily Snyder, Recording Secretary