

Community Council Minutes 2.25.19

Attending: Heidi Wainer, Steven Hren, Kent Dalton, Janel Arbon, Kathy Williams, Jeanette Kopell,

Discussion about proposals:

- Since our last meeting, Dr. Hren spoke with Robert Farnsworth about absorbing the cost of purchasing and replacing Chrome books. Since there are so many chrome books in our district, the tech budget will fund them. In addition, the district is fully funding the English Department.
- Janel expressed her concern about funding Edgenuity. She has listened to many complaints from parents and students about the program. She did not believe she could support a budget that includes Edgenuity.
- Dr. Hren reminded us that the Math department discussed their plans to change their use of the program next year. Heidi said minutes from last meeting discussed using Edgenuity only for homework and assessments. Teachers like the ability to pull out students for one on one help, but were not satisfied with the program. Jeanette reiterated that we support the Math teachers, but she knows former honors students who now hate math. Dr. Hren said that if teachers cannot get Edgenuity to do what they want; they might create their own system using canvass. This would mean building all new modules and loading them onto canvass. If they choose that option, they may want to use this money to fund their time to build these modules during the summer. Dr. Marable is also working with the middle school math department to find a new math program. We discussed that both departments may want to use the same program. Dr. Hren also said the math department will return to offering honors classes next year, which was met by a loud cheer from the parents in the room.
- Dr. Hren told us that the English SPED teacher has asked for a reading program to support her students. The two programs she would like would cost 27K for both middle school and high school students. If the program is successful, she feels she could use it to teach a reading support program for low readers not in sped as well. Dr. Hren has pledged 12K towards this purchase. And they are also asking the middle school. Kathy asked if this would be a one-time fee? - There will be a maintenance fee every year, but Dr. Hren should be able to cover that cost. Kathy also asked if the program would be purchased if Community Council cannot fund the entire remaining amount. Dr. Hren said it would be.
- Marimba – Kathy said that although she questioned the Marimba last meeting, she supports its purchase.

Action: We decided to break up the budget into two motions.

Janel motioned we fund the following: Art/Literary Magazine \$500; GCHS Newspaper \$500; Library \$7,000; Band Instruments \$12,500; Academic support \$20,000; Math Paraprofessional \$20,000; Science Olympiad \$2,000; Instructional Coaching \$15,000; Strings/Choir \$9,000; Moby Dick field trip \$1,000; Debate \$4,000; Art Trip \$3,482; Sped reading program \$8,000 - Jeanette seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Janel motioned we fund \$7,000 for the math program, for use along with a traditionally structured classroom setting. Kathy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Blue Ribbon – Jeannette and Janel nominated Kent for a blue ribbon for his positive influence on students. Jeanette will write up the award.