

December 10,2015

## PROPOSAL FROM THE FUNDS ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Available funds for allocation: \$21,000

Available remaining funds from Fall Teacher Grant \$2,500

### ADDITIONS TO THE FALL TEACHER GRANTS

#### ART SUPPLIES, SOLUTIONS AND ENHANCEMENTS - \$750

At the request of parents, Ms. Harris offered this art room supply wish list:

Baby wipes \$20	Clipboards \$10	Tempera glitter paint (Sargent) \$40
Cheap stand mixer and bowls \$40	Tempera drying display rack \$45	Multicultural Tempera cakes (Jack Richeson) \$55
Broom \$6	Clear storage bins \$40	Shipping \$30
Vacuum \$75	Pens \$10	
Hair dryer or heat gun \$18	Airbrush and starter kit \$55	
Easels \$180	Potters wheel \$100	

#### ENRICHMENT & RESOURCE MATERIALS - \$500

Organizational supplies and materials for adding individualized education materials within classrooms for both enrichment and resource at all grade levels.

#### CLASSROOM LIBRARIES OF SPANISH MID-LEVEL BOOKS, 3RD & 4TH GRADE -\$1000

Spanish books are significantly harder to source than English books. Students consistently struggle to find interest in Spanish books at their level. A committee will be looking to source used or new Spanish books to increase variety. Goal is to purchase 75 books per grade.

#### HOME BOOK BAGS FOR HEAD START - \$250

Bags for transport and storage of donated books that are to be kept at home for 30 Head Start students. Most of funds used to speed sourcing of Spanish books which are difficult to find donated. Total includes funds for an estimated 30 bags and 4 used Spanish books for each Spanish speaking student.

# PROPOSALS FOR DECEMBER 2015

## PROJECTOR AND SCREEN UPGRADE FOR GYM - \$2500

Portable larger screen and projector needs for assemblies and Friday morning meetings.

## SET OF 6 IPADS FOR ART & MUSIC - \$1800

Children are arranged in grouping of 6 often and art & music standards frequently coincide with technology standards. iPads would be in use daily. Art and Music would alternate use of the set. \*Music and Art would ideally not share the set. Additional funds for a second set could be approved in May.

## KIWANIS TRAIL PARTNERSHIP - \$500

We'd like to match the Kiwanis' \$500 available for improving this outdoor education experience built alongside College Hills in the 1950's. The trail has been continually maintained by the Kiwanis and the scouts, but we'd like to partner with them in renewing the trail with matched funds and volunteers from College Hills and the community.

Outdoor education is specifically beneficial for numerous science initiatives. Upgrades on the trail would include plant identification markers (not updated since the 1950s) and educational plaques for self-directed tours posted nearby real life examples of topics such as erosion, animal tracks, habitats, forest layers and etc. In implementing plant identification, the current CHE students would be able to be involved in a collaboration from connections in TAMU depts.

## BASKETBALL GOALS \$3000

Permanent basketball goals for the playground to replace broken temporary goals and installed at a lower height than current goals to allow younger children more access.

## BUTTERFLY AND BEE HABITAT - \$150

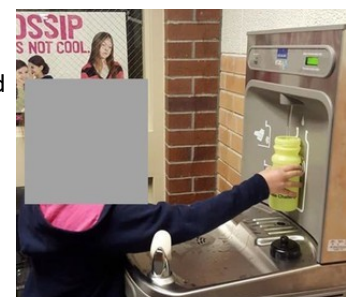
Outside the 1st/3rd grade courtyard are unused raised gardens installed by scouts when the school was rebuilt. These would be restored with well established plants that are known to be enduring as suggested by the Brazos Valley Master Gardeners for requiring little maintenance each year and that support butterflies and bees. An educational plaque would be installed to continually educate about the importance of supporting bees and butterflies. 1-4th grade Teachers would take turns watering the gardens (and thus learn about the garden) in the first year as the native plants will require watering during the first year. Each classroom would be assigned a day of each month when they were in charge of watering the garden.

## ITUNES GIFT CARD FOR APPS -\$1,000

As each teacher has iPads in use, apps are needed. It has been recommended that every teacher could use apps. Gift cards from the PTO directly (as Teachers are not permitted to put on their own apps on the school's iPads) are the most effective ways to give teachers the apps they specifically would like to have in their classrooms. \$1,000 allows for \$20 for each classroom including additional for other iPads in use at CHE. \*If it is found that more is still needed, additional funds could be approved in May.

## WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION RETROFITS - \$4,200

Addition of filling stations as retrofits over existing water fountains down one side of the hallway and at both water fountains near the cafeteria and in the gym, This would speed re-hydration time following CAMP and Recess and encourage students to drink more water which significantly impacts their immunity, gastro health, energy in the afternoon and fights obesity. \*Pricing process is ongoing. If it is found that more is still needed, additional funds could be approved by special vote following a site specific quote. \*Note shorter students will have difficulty utilizing the station.



### ~~SUSPENDED SHADE IN COURTYARD~~ - \$500

As seen here, there is a grouping of tables in the courtyard before the 3rd grade pod. Each table has a shade umbrella, but the shade is not sufficient. The courtyard can be quite bright during most of the school day. Complimenting the school's exterior color scheme of red or blue, a large shade cloth would be suspended from cables anchored into the brick near the top of the courtyard walls.



### NOTE FROM FACILITIES FOR SHADE

To install awnings on the school, cables would have to be attached to the steel structure of the school rather than to the outer wall. Consequently the project saves only a small amount over a pole installation and is not recommended by CSISD.

Mr. Ramirez is sourcing quotes on awning shade structures installed with pole mounts which could then be placed either in the courtyard or on the playground depending on staff preference. An Austin-based widely used (likely CSISD approved) vendor suggests that playground shade structures are often a \$20,000 project. Shade cloth structures are not an appropriate engineering solution for a basketball court sized area.

Also to be considered is that PTO would be both responsible for the installation cost of the structure and replacement of the shade cloth. The Austin vendor assured that he, and most vendors, include a 10 year replacement warranty. He gave an example of the Leander school district which has not received a bill ever from them for any maintenance of their shade structures. It is a large school district and the fastest growing in Texas, but they have only been out for minor repairs in 3 instances. None involved a bill.

### ALTERNATIVE SHADE SOLUTIONS

Crepe Myrtles are a hardy tree that does well, provides shade faster and does not pose problems for facilities. At a rough estimate of \$60 each, these would be planted in the next month or two.

Additionally, we could look again during May's vote at the Oakwood shade structure as a possible example as it will be further along in its implementation.

### SET OF BUCKETS - \$90 IF NOT DONATED

Set of buckets for seating/drums for 3rd and 4th grade to use when playing ukuleles and recorders. Sourced from either Lowe's or Home Depot

### WEE DELIVER - \$500 (Postponed vote until a faculty sponsor is arranged.)

Establish a program where students gather, sort and distribute mail within College Hills. Students will be able to create and send letters within the school to friends and teachers. Stamp contests and other opportunities provide experience of how to handle logistics and give excellent motivation for writing. This program would be inexpensive to maintain annually and a model for how to simply run this nationally popular program is available for us to learn from at Pebble Creek where it has been running successfully (where it has been an easy to follow process) .

Budget includes office supplies, signage, sorting area and mail carrier bags.

### CONSIDERATION FOR THE WEE DELIVER PROGRAM

Note: As a chicken vs. egg issue, faculty to support this program have not been recruited. In voting for this project in Dec. rather than May, PTO would be demonstrating the parental interest and financial support for the project which will make recruiting faculty easier. As this project could be provided for through a materials donation rather than a purchase made through district accounting, funds would not leave the PTO's account until the project is complete.

## SEVERAL PROJECTS OR PHASES OF PROPOSED PROJECTS POSTPONED FOR VOTE IN MAY

-Awning extension. PTO will proceed to request quotes from district approved vendors/contractors on an extension of the awning to increase shelter during drop off and pick up. Additionally, we will evaluate other solutions to prevent annual concerns of Gilchrist traffic safety. More time is needed to know price estimates and evaluate solutions.

-\$1,800 -a second set of iPads for art and music in order to not alternate use of the set.

-\$250 - Recycling program. In coming months, we would research how recycling might be done differently than 5 years ago when it became a burden upon staff and volunteers.

\$2,400- a set of 8 iPads to be checked out by classrooms to use for specific times when they would like more than the 4 available in their classroom. That would result in 2 children per iPad.

\$300 each for additional iPads.

\$1,100 - a Redcat audio system allows students to hear a teacher clearly regardless of activity levels or as a teacher is moving around. Redcats are currently in use during CAMP. By May, we would identify if there was another area that would benefit from a Redcat system.

-\$250 Tiger Trackways. PTO would cover the school's annual expense of red/blue tape installed in the hallways during summers by supplying an alternative printed tape that with life sized tiger cub tracks (about 2 inches) in red/blue over clear background. Purpose would be to help motivate specific students who struggle during transitions and create a more child-friendly atmosphere. Quote is for a minimum print that would supply up to 10 years.

-additional water bottle retrofits if found to be highly utilized.

-Natural classroom at Kiwanis Trail. A grouping of benches and counter height tables near a mid-point entrance to the Kiwanis Trail was constructed as an outdoor classroom when the trail was built. If use of the trail increases, we would then consider a shade structure with a grass floor that would fit into the natural environment and replace the benches and tables. A possible model for the project is being installed at Oakwood Intermediate. A grant from Lowe's might make \$5,000 available.

## NOTES FROM FACILITIES ON AN AWNING EXTENSION

An awning extension is estimated at \$70-\$80K. An additional bond in 2017 could include a line item for this project, however that would involve significant efforts by parents and administrators.

## ITEMS NOT PROPOSED

Feedback from the school district on discussed items has taken these items out of consideration:

Playground water fountains-Another campus recently raised money for this project. They rather promptly had theirs removed due to sanitation and maintenance issues.

Accelerated Reader and First in Math subscriptions-These subscriptions have been replaced by other similar programs district wide.