

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: January 3, 2012

AGENDA ITEM No. 12-01-08

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: Request for Matching Funds

INFO. CONTACT Patrick Rhodes PHONE: 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Matching Funds-Parent Teacher Organization/Booster Groups Policy #8430.
2. Request from Cedar Ridge High School.

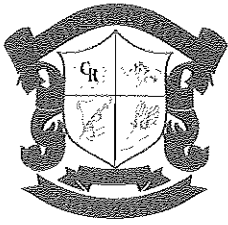
PURPOSE: To secure approval from the Board of Education for a \$1,000.00 matching funds request for Cedar Ridge High School.

BACKGROUND: To encourage the participation and efforts of organized booster and parent-teacher groups in support of the schools, the Orange County Board of Education has established and operates a matching funds program. Each fiscal year, one group per school may request a one-time matching grant of up to \$1,000.00 on a dollar-for-dollar basis to match an amount of money generated by the group for the benefit of the school. To qualify for matching funds, the applicant group must agree to spend the total amount (both matching grant and collected funds) on a project that benefits a large school group and has a lasting value to the students.

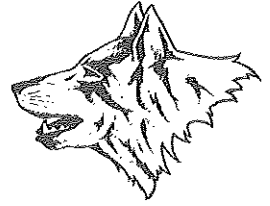
Following Board approval, in order for matching funds to be disbursed, school principals submit a Request for Reimbursement Form, with required documentation of expenditures, to the Director of Finance for processing.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: \$1,000.00.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the request for matching funds for an appropriation of \$1,000.00 to Cedar Ridge High School.

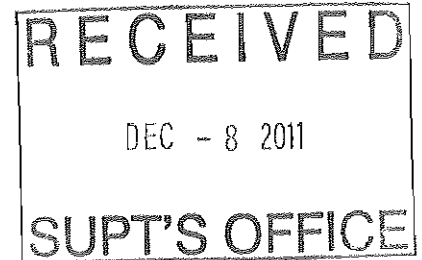


Cedar Ridge High School



December 7, 2011

Orange County Schools
Board of Education
200 East King Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278



As the Principal of Cedar Ridge High School, I hereby submit this letter in support of Mr. Frank Felicelli's request for Model UN matching board grant money.

Model UN is an academic extracurricular activity for students used to address and "resolve" current world problems representing designated nations. A typical Model UN conference would require students to research, collaborate, publically debate, and compose formal resolutions for committee consideration. Most conferences last approximately four days and the majority of the time is spent in conference sessions participating as delegates. In addition, students are offered a tour of the Johns Hopkins University campus, with the opportunity for our students to work with real diplomats and/or visiting academics in addition to various planned and supervised social events throughout the conference.

Due to the real-world application that this conference would offer our students, I ask that you support Mr. Felicelli's request for matching board funds to assist our students attain invaluable 21st century skills.

Sincerely,

John J. Wheeler
Principal, Cedar Ridge High School

To: Mr. John Wheeler

Fr: Frank Felicelli

Re: Application for Board of Education Matching Grant for Model UN Program

I am applying for the 1,000.00 matching Board of Education grant in order to help fund our Model UN program. Thank you for allowing our club to be considered for this valuable resource and funding opportunity.

Model UN is often referred to as an academic varsity "sport". Participating in Model UN conferences requires independent research, writing, speaking, and negotiating skills. At the end of each conference a small percentage of participants (less than 1 %) are awarded for exemplary participation. Last year CRHS Model UN students earned 7 exemplary awards of varying degrees, a school/club record while participating in 3 conferences. More impressive is that we finished second in the "small schools" category while participating at Johns Hopkins University, one of two national conferences we attend. As you are aware Model UN participation can be expensive when travel and other associated costs are factored in. It is with pride to say that no CRHS student has to "pay to play", if you will. Through a variety of funding sources we have managed to fully pay for our conference fees including all travel and rooming expenses. Any CRHS student member who works to raise money through our primary funding source will have their expenses paid for in full. To my knowledge there is no other Model UN program in the state that does this. Thus, grants received and income from other revenue streams allows any student regardless of ability to pay the unique educational opportunity that Model UN provides. Furthermore, it looks great on a college application. Only the intrinsically motivated student is a successful Model UN participant and colleges are well aware of this. Moreover, this year marks the first time that we have had student leaders who are members of SGA participate in the Model UN program. This will enhance both organizations tremendously. Finally, this year I was an invited guest speaker at UNC's Friday Center to share my experiences in starting and maintaining a successful Model UN program to a group of middle and high school educators from across North Carolina. All of our success would be much more challenging without funding sources such as the Board Matching Grant we are applying for. Thank you very much for your kind consideration.