

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: February 25, 2013

AGENDA ITEM No. 13-02-(2)-10

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) N

SUBJECT: Central Elementary Business/Education Partnership Report

INFO. CONTACT: Dr. Denise Morton/ Myron Wilson PHONE: (919) 732-8126

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Central Elementary Business/Education Partnership Project Plan

PURPOSE: To provide the Board of Education a report on a potential business/education partnership between Central Elementary, Summit Engineering and Tryon Investment Group.

BACKGROUND: According to a January 2013 report released by the College Summit and underwritten by the Citi Foundation entitled "Business Engagement in Education: Key Partners for Improving Student Success" education-business partnerships are a way to improve student achievement and college and career readiness. "The engagement of effective business-education partnerships is crucial if we as a nation are to work together to achieve positive outcomes for young people, communities, and the economy going forward in the 21st century."

To that end, Central Elementary principal and key staff members began discussions with two local companies, Summit Engineering represented by Jim Parker and Tryon Investment Group represented by George Horton in an effort to establish such a partnership. Central Elementary represents the highest free and reduced lunch percentage in Orange County Schools and is designated as a Title One school due to poverty levels and academic needs. For those reasons, they are seeking community partnerships to help their school be more successful.

Central Elementary desires such a partnership to help support four initiatives at their school: To improve students' academic skills, to provide life enriching experiences for students, to seek support for their Engineering is Elementary program and to improve the playground facilities at their school. They have met with Summit Engineering and Tryon Investment group representatives several times in order to define their partnership requests.

A detailed plan that describes these four initiatives is attached.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: \$24,233.00

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board receive for information the Central Elementary Business/Education Partnership report.

Summit Engineering/Tryon Investment Group, LLC

Jim Parker/George Horton

Business Partnership with Central Elementary School

Thank you for taking the time to consider a partnership with Central Elementary School. Community partners positively influence schools on many levels, and this opportunity to collaborate will help our school be more successful in meeting the needs of our students.

This proposal is for a long term partnership (3-5 years) with both **Summit Engineering and Tryon Investment Group** that focuses on 4 major components of need for Central Elementary students.

1. Academic Achievement
2. Business Mentors/Guest Speakers
3. Life Enrichment Activities
4. Facility improvements in Designated Areas of Need

1. Academic Achievement

- **Support through the Hill Center Outreach Program and Hill Strategies training for teachers to begin implementing instruction throughout grade levels in reading.**

Beginning with the February 2013 Hill Center training Central's exceptional children staff members will attend RAP training to start implementing strategies. Specific staff from general education grade levels (preK-5) will attend July 2013 Hill Center training to prepare for implementation in 2013 school year. **(Hill Center proposal attached)**

Total Funding Requested: \$9,733.00

2. Business Mentors/Guest Speakers

- **Development of an "Adopt an Engineer" program in grades 2-5 utilizing Summit's highly qualified engineers as resources for both our teachers and students in Central's EIE (Engineering is Elementary) Program.**

This opportunity would allow real world engineers into the school building to collaborate in engineering projects, have our students see real professionals in the engineering field, and give the teachers an "expert" to reference in various fields of study throughout the year. The possibility of site visits to Summit for extensions in learning are also available.

Total Funding Requested: \$0

3. Life Enrichment Activities

- **Support of enrichment clubs at Central to afford students learning opportunities outside the school environment.**

We strongly believe as a staff that it is critical for our students to have experiences that expand their knowledge base of the world around them. One of the programs at Central that affords such opportunities is the **Soaring Eagles Basketball Demonstration Team**. This group of 3-5 graders develops a ball handling skills set to music and is fortunate enough to be the halftime show of various local and regional basketball games. The basketball skills are secondary to the life experience, teamwork, and cooperation they obtain through the program year after year. *This program relies solely on community funding each year with a*

budget target of \$1500 to cover cost of buses, food for kids on performance nights, shirts for kids, and ticket prices (when applicable). (See included video montage)

- **G.O. F.A.R.-** (go out for a run) afterschool running club training students on setting goals to complete a 5K race (fall and spring clubs)
- **Art Club-** Afterschool art club with Dan Franklin (art teacher)
- **Good News Club-** Afterschool program to help students enhance personal responsibility for their actions in and outside of school.
- **Family Fitness Nights-** School-wide fitness festivals incorporating various family friendly fitness activities, healthy snacks, and fellowship.
- **Central's Holiday Store-** Open to anyone, free holiday gifts for Central families and the Hillsborough community. Donations of slightly used toys, clothing, furniture, etc... dispersed the week before Christmas.
- **Central's Family Literacy Night-** Family night of reading, special guests readers, promotion of literacy throughout the home.
- **Central's Family Math Night-** Family night of math strategies for parents to implement at home.
- **5th grade Retreat-** 5th graders attend a retreat at local farm in May for fellowship, middle school preparation activities, hiking, fishing, mentoring.

Total Funding Requested: \$4,500.00

4. Facility improvements in Designated Areas of Need

- **Support in reconditioning Central's playground to provide a safe, engaging area for the students and surrounding community to recreate both during school hours and beyond.**

Central's playground is also a public park area for the surrounding community. With obesity levels at all time highs, it is imperative that children have access to safe, engaging outdoor play spaces. Along those same lines it is important for adults to have a space for exercise such as a track or quality walking trail surface. Central's playground is under utilized by the surrounding community because it lacks these resources. Revitalizing this space would be a step in the fight against obesity and obesity related health concerns for the students of Central and the surrounding community. **(See the attached pictures.) Support in funding a walking track/trail around perimeter of playground and enhance playground equipment.**

Total Funding Requested: \$10,000.00

GRAND TOTAL REQUESTED: \$24,233.00

On behalf of the students and faculty of Central Elementary School, thank you for your time and consideration in joining forces with us. It is an ongoing challenge for schools to meet the needs of their students. In developing quality long-term partnerships within the community, progress can be made in meeting the needs of all children and laying the foundation for a successful future.

John Gaddy
Physical Education Teacher
Central Elementary School

Myron Wilson
Principal
Central Elementary School