



Information & Action Item: Acceptance of a Skokie PTO Donation

TO: School Board

FROM: Dr. Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent
Greg Kurr, CFO

May 16, 2017

Background & Overview

The School PTO's provide an incredible amount of time, effort, program and financial support throughout each school year. They represent a tremendous benefit to the schools and the District as a whole. Their contributions are certainly appreciated.

In addition to the many cumulatively substantial contributions that PTO's make throughout the year, periodically they also donate a single substantial item for the benefit of a school. An item that benefits students and generally would not be part of a normal expenditure of the District. By Board policy when the cost of a donated item is \$5,000 or greater, Board approval is required before the donation is accepted.

The District is fortunate enough to have a pending generous donation offer from the Skokie School PTO that exceeds the \$5,000 threshold. The proposed donation of approximately \$12,000 is for the acquisition and installation of a climbing wall in the North Gym of Skokie School. This addition would provide an activity that is popular with students within the Kinetic Wellness curriculum as well as after-school activities. The product is designed for use by children in the elementary and middle school grades, and can therefore provide benefit for students in the various grade levels that may occupy the school. The PTO is aware of the fact that the outcome of the District's Master Facility Plan may alter the structure and use of Skokie School and believes that even an interim student benefit is worth the cost.

The school administrators and teachers are in favor of receiving this donation and are excited about the student benefits the climbing wall will provide. The installation and implementation of the climbing wall will also be coordinated with Adam Rappaport, Director of Building and Grounds. No additional District cost is expected to be incurred regarding the donated item except for the minimal cost of annual inspections for the climbing wall and what is anticipated to be minimal maintenance.

Recommendation

The recommendation is that the Board accept the proposed generous donation, by the Skokie School PTO, of a climbing wall for Skokie School in the amount of approximately \$12,000.