

2009 UHS PTO Special Projects Requests

The Special Project is a new initiative for the 2008-09 school year. It was approved as part of the budget approval process at the September 2, 2008 PTO meeting.

The spirit of the Special Project was envisioned as **a** (as in singular) Special Project, defining Project as one big item of note and there was initial discussion with the Student Council about purchasing an electronic posting sign for the front of the school.

Over the course of a few months it became clear that we would not be seeking funding for a new sign in front of the school (economy, township regulations to deal with, Student Council inability to help with funding, community perception, to name a few of the reasons). A slightly altered criteria was developed for the Special Projects to include the following-

1. Request from students and UHS PTO members
2. Request considered for projects that contribute to, supplement and improve the overall excellence of the high school experience, benefiting a large segment of the school population.

As part of the evolving criteria, these requests were by nature more student-centered than the fall requests. That distinction is exemplified by who actually uses the item funded. And in this case, all of the requested items have students as the primary users (i.e. student centered). If this "Special Projects" is to continue, this might be a criteria distinction that you can incorporate into your decision-making – as a guiding light.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the PTO – to have funds to distribute to our high school! When making funding decisions it is important for us to consider the total picture and what is coming in the future climate of pursuing an 'under the cap' financing for a major renovation. Maintaining all aspects of our secondary educational excellence is paramount and PTO should help in this goal. This may mean funding more than the solely "out of the box", non-bricks and mortar items. As the district moves forward we may find it necessary to consider the bricks and mortar over the innovative and new for the sake of preserving an educational edge for our children. The decisions will not be easy and hopefully, everyone will work together for the sake of the kids.

At the April 14, 2009 UHS PTO meeting the members voted on our Special Projects funding. I am pleased to announce the total of **\$16,943.59** was awarded for projects that will directly benefit our students at the high school.

The awards were as follow:

1. **\$6,500.00** for the **Auditorium Revitalization Project** - along with UMPA's (Unionville Music Parents Association) contributions will fully fund the project request for much needed loudspeakers, amplifiers, lighting and accessories for the auditorium.
2. **\$5,000.00** for the **Library Learning for All** project to improve **computer needs** in the library. This money will be used for increasing the number of computers available for instruction and research in the high school library.
3. **\$5,443.85** toward the **World Language iPod Language Lab Cart** –along with the district contribution of \$2,591.00 will fully fund the iPod Language Lab (20 iPod players and 20 Belkin Tune Talk Stereo digital voice recorders).

The UHS PTO continues to support maintaining and advancing all aspects of our secondary educational excellence and feel our funding selection reflects the importance of these items toward that end. Thanks to all of you, our volunteers, who make it possible for our UHS PTO to accomplish these goals.

With warm regards to all,



Carol Catanese
UHS PTO Projects Manager