



PTO GIFTS PROGRAM

Requests for PTO Funding 2016-17

Any teacher, parent, or student who has a request for funds from the PTO must fill out this form. Please answer these questions as thoroughly as possible, providing supporting detail and information. When completed, please return to the administration at either school by **Friday, October 21, 2016**.

1. Define your request:

Partial funds to pay for the 7th grade, Skype presentation by author, Jim Averbeck.

2. Amount requested:

Mr. Averbeck's "honorarium" is \$400.00 and I am requested \$200 to help cover the cost.

3. Can this project be funded in stages? If yes, what timetable is involved? If no, please explain your due date for funds.

No, this cannot be funded in stages. Mrs. Averbeck is only booked for this year.

4. Has this request been reviewed by the school administration? What was their response as to its merit and priority?

Yes, I addressed this request with Dr. Sukenik and she felt that it was within the guidelines to seek out these funds from the PTO Gifts Program.

5. Number of Students that will be impacted or benefit from your request:

Jim Averbeck's Skype session will be for the entire 7th grade as part of their ELA and Social Studies curriculum based on the ELA classroom novel, *A Long Walk to Water*. Though fictional, the story is based on the true story of Salva Dut, a "Sudanese Lost Boy."

The author no longer does presentations. Jim is recommended by the author as her replacement. Jim was the illustrator of the book and knows Salva Dut and has also spend a number of years in the Peace Corps volunteering in Cameroon Africa. Jim will address all of this in his presentation.

Students will have prepared questions to ask Jim.

- 6. Is this a one-time request or do you envision needing additional PTO funds in the future or long range? If you will require additional PTO funds, please explain why this cannot be added into your annual budget.**

If the presentation goes well and students benefit from this Skype then it should be done each year that the book remains a part of the curriculum.

(We do this with the author of *Red Scarf Girl*, but her honorarium is half the price of Jim's and comes out of the library budget.)

- 7. What is the intended goal of your request? Would it have any other uses or applications? Is this a start up program or is it enhancing an existing program? Use additional paper if needed.**

To enhance the understanding of a piece of literature as it relates to truly unjust experiences happening around the world.

- 8. What are the long range benefits of your request?**

Seeing Jim will bring a personal connection to the real-life background of the story. It's not only about literature, but the power of literature and what goes into writing a story about something so devastating.

Culturally, this brings alive what they are learning in Social Studies. Jim's presentation will have an emphasis on cultural understanding and her will dispel "misconception about Africa."

I personally think that Jim's experience in the Peace Corps will add a very special dimension about volunteering and the benefits it brings to one's own self as well as others. An opportunity for students to think about various areas around the world and how they might help through understanding and perhaps in volunteering when they get older

- 9. If you are requesting a capital asset/investment, please provide a minimum of two options/pricing quotes on the item and attach to this form. Please identify your first choice and why.**

- 10. Have you exhausted all other funding options before coming to the PTO Gifts Program?**

As mentioned above, I have incorporated one annual author Skype in the library budget, but this is a new additional Skype, that was not included in the budget and came in a tad too high, but truly worth hosting!