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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** DR. JAMES FRANACHINI, SUPERINTENDENT  
**FROM:** MICHAEL OUIMET  
**SUBJECT:** GRANTS  
**DATE:** MARCH 15, 2019  
**CC:** BOARD OF EDUCATION

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The Averill Park Education Foundation has generously made a donation of \$3,650 for the purpose of funding the following:

- \$2,800 High School – Prom Speakers
- \$850 Algonquin Middle School – James Preller author visit for the Richtol’s Read All Day Event

I recommend the District accept this donation, increase the General Fund budget by 3,650 (A2110450100000, \$3,650) and publicly thank the Averill Park Education Foundation for their contribution and continuing support of our school community.

Please place this recommendation on the March 25, 2019 Board of Education agenda. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this recommendation.



February 8, 2019

Kim Favro  
Averill Park High School  
146 Gettle Road  
Averill Park, NY 12018

Re: Grant Approval

Dear Ms. Favro:

We're delighted to report that the Trustees of the Averill Park Education Foundation have awarded you a grant in the amount of \$2,800.00 to cover costs related to guest speakers for the prom season.

The funds from this grant are restricted to cover the costs for the guest speakers as detailed in your grant request dated January 15, 2019 and submitted to the Trustees for consideration.

Within a year, we ask that you send us an informal report on how you have used this grant, along with at least one photo showcasing your project that we may post on our web site or use in promotional materials.

The APEF is proud to support and enrich Averill Park Education through meaningful projects such as yours. We wish you success with your project and look forward to hearing more about it.

Sincerely,

Scott Bendett  
President, Averill Park Education Foundation

Averill Park Education Foundation  
PO Box 56  
Averill Park, NY 12018  
<http://www.averillparkef.org/>

Grant Application- Averill Park Education Foundation

**Project Goals and Description**

The purpose of our proposal is to enhance substance abuse prevention and learning opportunities for students, faculty and parents in our district. It is truly important that we continue to stay informed and also challenge the misinformation that young people receive regarding substances, most specifically alcohol and marijuana. In our district, we take great pride in working to enhance healthy community education. Based on our latest Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, which is distributed to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the district, alcohol, e-cigarettes, and marijuana are the leading drugs of choice for our students. Due to my unique role as Student Assistance Counselor employed by both Rensselaer County Mental Health and Averill Park School District, I am able to diversify programming to engage students, families, and community members. My colleagues and I are always striving to participate in the most current, research-based training programs and educational conferences, in order to stay relevant and grow our awareness of the issues that impact our Rensselaer County youth. I also work closely with our coalition, NOpiates, and we are continuously trying to expand our reach and connect with more of our community members. Our role extends beyond the school schedule, as we provide needed services to community members facing issues with substance abuse or mental health year round. As the Student Assistance Counselor for the high school, I also oversee the student led, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club, and as said previously, have ongoing membership in the community substance abuse prevention coalition, NOpiates.

A significant aspect of Prevention Counseling is diversifying the techniques and concepts used to reach at risk populations. In the Student Assistance Program, we provide individual and group counseling to any at-risk student, and also provide evidence-based classroom presentations on substance abuse and mental health topics throughout the school year. An important aspect of our job is to also incorporate community presenters into our programming in order to bring attention to various issues facing our youth today. It is helpful at times to incorporate guest speakers into the programming because it challenges misperceptions and educates people in a personalized and unique context. We are hopeful that our community can experience two unique presentations this spring.

Members of SADD and Algonquin's Youth Empowerment Club were able to attend the *Northeastern Community Action Partnership Youth Summit* in October 2018. There were four guest speakers there that day, all delivering powerful messages about addiction and recovery. One guest speaker stood out to the students due to his ability to engage the

audience, while also raising awareness about alcohol abuse and addiction. Based upon our students' requests and the observations made during his performance, I am requesting the Education Foundation's support in bringing performer, **Matt Butler**, to the district for the annual *Pre-Prom/Dinner Dance Assembly*. It will be a great change of pace for us to have a performer in the music industry here for this assembly, and should engage a wider range of students in his message.

With the funds, our intention is to provide **2** guest speaker presentation/performance opportunities at Averill Park in 2019. In addition to Matt Butler's presentation which will be held during the day and geared specifically for students and faculty, we are requesting a second presentation by **Mike Nerney** which would be held in the evening and geared towards parents and community members.

**1: Mr. Butler's** presentation is geared towards students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, all of whom are expected to attend an annual "Pre-Prom Assembly" at the high school. Matt will perform various songs from his album, *Reckless Son*, which details his struggles with substances and also the hope and redemption that comes with sobriety. He will take time in between songs to share his story of addiction, the pitfalls and struggles he experienced as a result of his substance abuse, and the benefits of living and performing sober. As mentioned above, Matt sang and spoke at the most recent capital region *Youth Summit*, which brought together students from various SADD organizations in the area. His presentation had a lasting effect on our student population and the others in the audience. He was captivating, approachable, and candid in his message. Matt also created a non-profit organization called, *The Just One Foundation*, which focuses on bringing "music with the message of recovery" to communities. The cost of Matt's performance is **\$1,500** (regularly \$3,000). He also requires travel expenses for a hotel stay and train transportation totaling **\$300**. Matt requires a deposit of **\$750** by February 15th 2019 and the remaining **\$1,050** will be due on April 16th 2019. The Student Assistance Counselor and SADD President will provide ongoing communication with Mr. Matt Butler and his manager in preparation of his presentation. If awarded the funds, the assembly will occur on **April 30th 2019**. The Student Assistance Counselor will ensure that the event is captured via photos, interviews, and featured in multiple publications including the school newsletter, school website, the NOpiates website, and the school newspaper.

**2. Mr. Michael Nerney's** presentation will be geared towards parents and community members, but students can also benefit from his presentation as well. Parents of students of all ages, particularly that of middle and high school age, can benefit most significantly from hearing the presentation. Mr. Nerney is a highly regarded specialist and internationally known lecturer, focusing on Substance Abuse Prevention and Education.

Education Foundation Grant Application- K. Favro, MA

He had a well attended presentation at HVCC two years ago, and it has been the goal of NOpiates and the county prevention program to bring him back to the area to speak. Hosting Mr. Nerney in our district would allow our community the opportunity to gain great insights on substance abuse issues facing our young people, and teach parents how to intervene with our teens when they present with such issues. More specifically, Mr. Nerney will cover *Current Trends in Adolescent Substance Abuse* and/or *Big Damage: How Addictive Drugs Change the Adolescent Brain*. If awarded, we would like to host Mr. Nerney in March. Mr. Nerney's presentation costs **\$2,000** with additional travel expenses. The NOpiates Committee is planning on paying \$1,000 towards this presentation but are in need of the additional \$1,000. We are hoping to host this presentation one evening in March. NOpiates would be advertising for the event in *The Advertiser* and on their website.

Attached you will also have a biography and background on both presentators.



January 5, 2019

Rebecca Ekstrom  
Stella Conti  
Algonquin Middle School  
333 NY-351  
Averill Park, NY 12018  
Re: Grant Approval

Dear Ms. Ekstrom and Ms. Conti:

We're delighted to report that the Trustees of the Averill Park Education Foundation have awarded you a grant in the amount of \$850.00 to cover the costs of the author visit by James Preller for Richtol's Read All Day Event.

The funds from this grant are restricted to cover the costs for the consultant as detailed in your grant request dated November 26, 2018 and submitted to the Trustees for consideration.

Within a year, we ask that you send us an informal report on how you have used this grant, along with at least one photo showcasing your project that we may post on our web site or use in promotional materials.

The APEF is proud to support and enrich Averill Park Education through meaningful projects such as yours. We wish you success with your project and look forward to hearing more about it.

Sincerely,  
Scott Bendett  
President, Averill Park Education Foundation

Averill Park Education Foundation  
PO Box 56  
Averill Park, NY 12018  
<http://www.averillparkef.org/>

November 26, 2018

The library is seeking funding to have author James Preller for our 16th annual Richtol's Read All Day.

James Preller has written many books for middle school and young adults.

The library plans to sell some of his books before RRAD.

Our goals are to get students excited about reading, to build literacy, help to foster a love of reading, introduce students to an author and help them learn more about an author's life and career.

Time line: Ms. Conti and I are currently in the planning stages up until the author's visit on Thursday, May 9, 2019.

Planned activities: When James Preller arrives he will eat lunch with a small group of students. Students who are able to eat with him will be students who have made a poster based on one of his books. Mr. Preller will give two presentations based on a modified schedule, (one for sixth and half of seventh and one for eighth and half of seventh). He will give a third presentation, an optional Q and A session last block. His presentations will include more about his books, what it is like to be an author and the writing process. Mr. Preller will stay after school to meet students and sign their books.

The principal staff are myself and Stella Conti, grade 6 Literacy Teacher. Our responsibilities include planning and publicizing RRAD and correspondence with the author.

\*Note: Richtol's Read All Day was started sixteen years ago by beloved Literacy Teacher, Nancy Richtol. It is a day when AMS celebrates stories, reading, literacy and authors. Teachers are encouraged to read their classes throughout the day. Community members and teachers will read to groups in the auditorium. The highlight of the day is our annual author visit. *The Algonquin Retiree Group has chosen to donate \$400 to this author visit in honor of Carol McMillian.*

We very much appreciate your time and consideration. We are looking forward to RRAD and hope that the day's events inspire our students to read even more.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Rebecca Ekstrom and Stella Conti. The signature on the left is a stylized cursive signature, and the signature on the right is 'Stella Conti' written in a cursive script.

Rebecca Ekstrom and Stella Conti