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Board of Education

Morris Ave.

Union, NJ 07083

April 8, 2013

Dear President Perkins and Members of the Board of Education:

The Township of Union Education Foundation is proud to announce that it is awarding a record number of grants to teachers for the 2013-2014 school year. Twelve grants are being awarded to teachers in eight schools in the district.

Mini-grants of up to \$750.00 have been awarded to:

Greg Pardo, for Gifted and Talented in grades three and four at Connecticut Farms for a project entitled "Past Meets Present: Geocaching through Time." Students with adult supervision will use a special GPS enabled device to search for a geocache in historical places in our community. They will find out factual information, take pictures and blog about their experiences.

Kelly Royal, second grade teacher at Livingston School, has been awarded funds for Math Whiz "Fact Attack." Students in her class will utilize an interactive hand-held "math whiz" which provides a differentiated, tiered and interactive way to learn math facts, which will help students in their math studies throughout the year.

Adam Raffaele, environmental science teacher at Union High School, has been awarded funds for a large compost bin which will be used to teach students about decomposition of organic materials. It will generate compost for plants in the greenhouse, which is installed in a courtyard of the High School. The greenhouse was purchased with funds provided in a grant received from the Education Foundation last year.

Nina Meyerhoff and Donna Courtney, third grade general and in-class resource teachers at Washington School, will receive an iPad. This tool will facilitate full inclusion in the classroom in all subject areas- writing, literature, vocabulary, spelling, reading comprehension and math. It is especially useful for students with communication difficulties.

Michele Moynihan, who will be the media specialist at the newly renovated Central 5/Jefferson School when it reopens in September, will receive 3 Chromebooks to enhance the abilities of students to do on-

line research in the school library, with the long range goal of having a class set of Chromebooks available to every child during library class. Learning to use the OPAC, websites and subscription databases are essential skills for students in the 21st century.

Marcel Royal, teacher of special education in grades 3-4 in a self-contained class of autistic children at Connecticut Farms will receive 2 iPads. iPads target areas of specific difficulty that many autistic students may have.

Macro-grants of up to \$5,000.00 have been awarded to:

Mr. Ian Perry and Ms. Debra Coppola, sixth grade language arts and in-class resource teachers at Burnet Middle School. They will receive funds to set up 5 learning stations with tiered lessons which students will use throughout the year for a more student centered, multi-sensory learning environment.

Stephen Piotrowski and Amie Osborne, science and environmental science teachers in grades 11 and 12 at Union High School will receive a grant for a self-sustaining garden in the courtyard where the greenhouse is located. Six raised garden beds with rain barrels and soaker hoses will be placed in a center courtyard. Students will have hands-on growing activities which will supplement the already established greenhouse activities. Union High School will now have a full-fledged growing center.

Catherine Holdright and a team of teachers at Burnet Middle School have received funds to expand last year's "Chasing Vermeer" grant. Three of the sixth grade clusters at Burnet will utilize this grant for interdisciplinary and cross curricular activities, which will be done in English, social studies, math and science class.

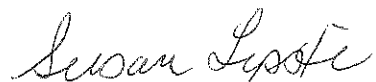
Cara LeBlond and Patricia Bogda, third grade teachers at Battle Hill Elementary School, will use their grant to establish an outdoor garden, "Battle Hill's Garden of Knowledge." Children will experience a hands-on learning environment including butterfly garden, vegetable garden, birdhouses and an observation area. This will be the fourth school garden established by the Education Foundation.

Mary Ellen Patricco, fourth grade teacher at Connecticut Farms School, will utilize her funds to establish a STEM pilot program. This STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program will focus on creativity, communication, critical thinking and technology. As part of her grant, all fourth grade students at Connecticut Farms School will have access to an on-line math program which can be used both at school and at home.

Peter Jarmulowicz, Laura Detjen and Helen Soto, World Language teachers at Kawameeh Middle School, received a grant for laptops which they will use to connect their students to on-line resources. Students will be able to communicate with students in other countries and the teachers will combine the laptops with Smartboard activities to greatly expand the curriculum.

All of these teachers will be honored at a reception on May 9th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Liberty Hall,
Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Lipstein".

Susan Lipstein, President

Township of Union Education Foundation