Financial Needs Assessment Results

In accordance with the Superintendent’s 5 Year Strategic Plan, the UHS Administration and School Council Finance Committee distributed a financial needs assessment through the UHS Instructional Council (Made up of Department Chairs and the UHS School Council Chair) in May 2016. This needs assessment sought feedback from instructional leaders and teachers about where teachers felt funds were needed most in the following categories: Curriculum and Instruction, Classroom and Campus Facilities, Professional Development, Communications, Equity and Access for Student Opportunities and “other”. Teachers in each department were asked to provide feed back on what resources were needed to improve University High School.

The finance committee compiled the data and broke each item down into what type of funding source could fund each item and was then given to the Instructional Council to finalize the priority list of items to be targeted. The largest identified needs were in technology and wellness support. After consulting with student finance, the committee discovered that many wellness projects can be funded with tax credit donations due to its description falling into “non required/extracurricular.” Technology cannot fall into tax credit funding laws.

Around the same time (Spring 2016) that this needs assessment was conducted, students, teachers, parents and staff also completed the School Quality Survey and a survey for the AdvancED Accreditation process. The responses in these additional surveys supported the information provided in the needs assessment which provides further justification that students, parents and staff see the biggest need of the school in technology availability and instruction as well as wellness support and training for teachers and students.

Based on this data, the Finance Committee along with the UHS Administration and Instructional Council see the following as the biggest needs to improve instruction at UHS:

1. Instructional technology including but not limited to:
   1. COWS (Computers on Wheels)
   2. Document Cameras
   3. LCD Projectors
   4. Printers
   5. Software
2. Wellness Support including but not limited to:
   1. PD for teachers and staff on working with students dealing with pressure
   2. Training and workshops for students on mindfulness

The Finance Committee makes the recommendation for fundraising groups to consider the 2016 Financial Needs Assessment data in pursing monies and fundraising for the school.