

PURPOSE: To offer transparency regarding the allocation of extracurricular funding.

INTRODUCED BY: Logan Lechner

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE**

SECTION ONE (DEFINITIONS):

- Extracurriculars: clubs, sports, academic teams, and other student organizations.

SECTION TWO (REASONING):

The administration of MSMS should regularly report the allocation of extracurricular funding to ensure transparency and fairness. Extracurriculars include clubs, sports, academic teams, and other student organizations. Students and parents deserve to know where school dollars are going, so that they can be confident that our school's budget has the best interest of all students in mind. In the report, our school should specify the number of students in each extracurricular and provide an explanation for the amount being distributed. Extracurriculars play a crucial role in the lives of students, and they spark a love for academic interests that often branch off into future careers. We need to ensure that each extracurricular receives the support that it deserves. Students and parents need a voice in these matters, and the first step in this direction would be the open flow of information.

In NO way am I saying that I expect our school to be able to completely fund an extracurricular. Of course, fundraising is a necessity if MSMS cannot fully fund us. This resolution is solely in place to ensure that the resources that we DO have are being properly allocated

Example of time where the budget would have been helpful:

Last year, executive director Donnie Cook spent an exorbitant amount of money on many extracurriculars within our school. This excessive spending happened without MSMS's parents and students' knowledge, and as a result, all extracurriculars are low on funding this year. If our school had a visible extracurricular budget, we could have better questioned this excessive spending. The need for a budget this year is simultaneously a safeguard from events like last year as well as serving to help manage the consequences of last year's events. It is astounding that our previous executive director was able to spend this money, not encourage fundraising, and leave our school's clubs in awful shape financially. The MSMS community needs to know this information, and this budget must be public knowledge.

SECTION THREE (PROPOSED ACTION):

MSMS administration should report a quarterly budget for each extracurricular. This budget should include an estimated dollar amount being given along with an estimated number of students within each extracurricular. The number of students will be determined by club sponsors or coaches at the beginning of each quarter. If an extracurricular requires little to no funding, our school should still provide this information. It's apparent that different extracurriculars require different amounts of funding, and many extracurriculars at our school may not require any funding at all. This information must be accessible to our parents and students because we need to ensure that each extracurricular receives the support proportional to their needs and the number of students involved. Administration should explain the dollar amount given to each extracurricular. Also, extracurriculars should provide the amount they have funded within the previous quarter. This can help to provide the net school cost for the previous quarter. A document must be created with all this information, and the report should be emailed to both parents and students at the beginning of each quarter.

Example: Q1 Extracurricular Finances Report

Club Name	Number of Students	Amount Distributed	Reason for amount
Chess Club	8	\$50.00	Chess sets and timers.
Run Club	10	N/A	Requires no money for activities.
Soccer	20	\$75.00	Soccer balls and cones.

Example: Q2 Extracurricular Finances Report

Club Name	Number of Students	Amount Distributed in Q1	Reason for amount	Amount Fundraised in Q1	Net Cost for Q1	Amount Distributed in Q2	Reason for Amount
Chess Club	8	\$50.00	Chess sets and timers.	\$50.00	-\$0.00	\$0	Club has materials.
Run Club	10	N/A	Requires no money for activities.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Requires no money for activities.
Soccer	20	\$75.00	Soccer balls and cones.	\$20	-\$55.00	\$15	Needs scrimmage vests.

These example charts highlight the key aspects necessary for the report. To make sure that school funds are most effectively benefiting the students, the report details funds distribution, reasons for specific amounts, numbers of students, amounts fundraised in previous quarters, and net costs for each quarter. It is imperative that our funds' distribution is clearly conveyed to students and parents.

SECTION FOUR (APPENDIX):

Response 1 (Anonymous):

“I feel like having transparency in distribution of club funding would provide multiple benefits to our school. First, a report of such distribution would allow for equity between clubs, whether that be in exact dollar amounts or proportional amounts to each club’s needs. Second, a funding report would grant clubs access to easier budgeting; they could base each quarter’s budget loosely upon the last quarter’s funding. Last, it would remove any chance of administration holding discrepancies that might occur with club funding, for example, past administrative figures have spent more money than they should have, and transparency with club funding could have resolved this mistake before it became such a huge issue for later years.”

Response 2 (Anonymous):

“I think more transparency would be highly beneficial to MSMS students and give them the information that they are entitled to know. Past authoritative figures abused our finances and because no one could see what it was being spent on, we do not have much spending money.”