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Freehold Township Education Foundation Announces Grant Winners

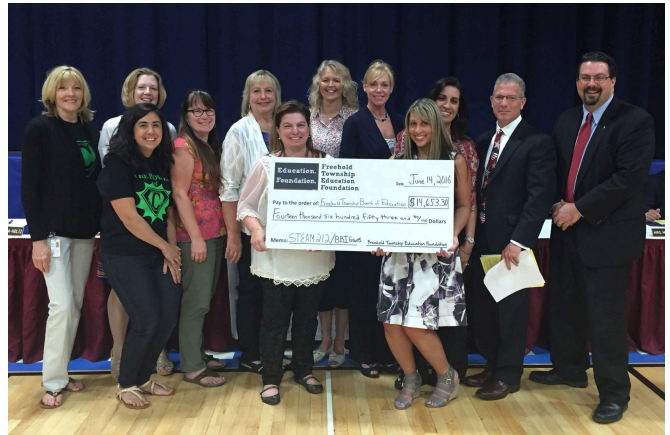
Freehold, NJ - The Freehold Township Education Foundation (FTEF) recently announced the recipients of the 2016 William J. Setaro Building Blocks for Innovation (BBI) Grants Program. A total of \$10,000 was awarded to 5 teacher-written grants representing 5 schools in the Freehold Township School District: Joseph J. Catena Elementary School, Laura Donovan Elementary School, Clifton T. Barkalow Middle School, West Freehold School and Marshall W. Errickson Elementary School.

"We were able to fund 5 outstanding applications from schools throughout the District," said FTEF Trustee and BBI Grants Committee Chair, Karen Preston. "Each of the applicants submitted innovative and exciting projects. Thank you to the selection committee and congratulations to the winners!"

The single largest grant funded was for Jane Kablauoi (Media Specialist) and Monica Hittinger's (Technology Integration Coordinator) grant **"#BuildingSTEAM"**. The Laura Donovan School teachers were awarded \$3,350 to fund their project, which will enhance the school's Makerspace/STEAM center. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. Exciting additions include: Bloxels for building video games, Keva Planks unit blocks, Makey Makey invention kits, seven pegboard walls and a Huddle Cam Video so students can videoconference with students, experts and guest speakers around the world.

The other grant recipients were:

- **"Using Your Wits with littleBits"** – Karen Coronado and Nanette Taddeo, Marshall W. Errickson School
- **"Magna Tiles"**– Colleen LaSalle and Janet Griffin, Joseph J. Catena School
- **"Putting the A in STEAM"** – Matt Finucane, Clifton T. Barkalow Middle School
- **"OSMO Gaming System"** – Kimberly Layman, West Freehold School



"The BBI Grants program allows us to fund cutting-edge initiatives driven by our teachers who share our passion for excellence in Freehold Township schools," said FTEF Chair Denise Bartone. "We are committed to supporting their vision and our district's role as a national leader in personalized learning and the innovative use of technology in education through grants like these as well as district wide campaigns like STEAM212."

The winners were surprised at their respective schools with "big" checks and balloons. The FTEF presented a check to fund all 5 grants at the June 14, 2016 Board of Education meeting (see picture above).

The Freehold Township Education Foundation is a community-based, all-volunteer, nonprofit foundation created to fund innovative programs for Freehold Township district schools. For more information about the foundation, or to donate, visit www.ftefnj.org or our Facebook page.