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Tiny house project awarded grant

NEWS

Tipp Foundation surpasses \$2 million mark

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TIPP CITY — At the Tipp City school board meeting Monday, the Tipp Foundation presented the high school's Tiny House project with the grant that put their organization over a distribution milestone.

Jim McKee of the Tipp Foundation presented a check for \$1,500 to Jim Kitchen, the home building class instructor overseeing the Tiny House project.

This grant helped the foundation surpass the \$2 million mark in donations.

“People think giving away money is a fun thing, but it can be really hard when you have really great projects and a limited amount of money,” McKee said. “This one really stuck out.”

Through this home building class project, students participate in building a tiny house, learning real-world skills for the construction industry. It also offers students a chance to learn about sustainable living and being aware of their impact on the environment.

When completed, the tiny house will be sold and the proceeds will be used to fund the course next year.

Kitchen called on several of the students involved in the project to present progress pictures to the board.

The frame for the tiny house, which was supposed to be mounted on the trailer by now, is still in the shop room. Snow and rain have kept the project from moving forward, Kitchen said.

The foundation chose the project to be its milestone donation because of its innovative approach to education.

“Job skill training — we loved the idea. Sustainable living — loved the idea,” McKee said of the tiny house project.

In the last 18 years, the foundation has given away more than half a million dollars to the schools, McKee said.

“It’s taken us a long time to get there — 73 years,” McKee said. “I will say that we’re picking up steam and I would anticipate the \$3 millionth to be given away in a much, much quicker time than that.”

In other business, the board approved the retirement of Paula Goldsberry, the family and consumer science teacher, as well as an overnight trip for the high school quiz team, who will compete in the national competition in Washington, D.C., in April.

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