

For Immediate Release

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Milton Public School's Grant Writer Off to a Great Start

Chris Masalsky was hired as the school system's first grant writer in January, and despite a very difficult economic environment, he has already raised nearly \$50,000 for the Milton public schools. The Milton Foundation for Education committed to funding the grant writer position for three years in the hopes of increasing the resources available to the Milton public schools.

Mary McLaughlin, president of the MFE Board of Trustees, is pleased with the results so far. In the first nine months, Masalsky raised \$48,000 for two initiatives: a \$43,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for post-traumatic event services in the wake of the Revelus family tragedy and \$5,000 through the State of Massachusetts DOE's Academic Support Summer Enhancement Grant. In total, Masalsky has submitted 17 proposals requesting \$255,200.

McLaughlin admits that the MFE initially wrestled with the decision to make a three year funding commitment for Masalsky's position, noting it is the single largest grant the MFE has ever made. However, given Milton's current budget challenges, the Foundation felt like the timing was right to make this kind of commitment to the town, and the results have been very encouraging. "Chris has already made such an important contribution to finding new sources of funding for our schools," McLaughlin said.

Although technically Masalsky works half-time for the school department, he readily admits that grants are a round-the-clock enterprise. “I’m continuously ‘plugged in’ on evenings and weekends to learn about new prospects and respond to new opportunities,” Masalsky said. “I also need to keep connected with the changing needs across the Milton Public Schools - the priorities for funding naturally shift as each school year evolves, and our proposals need to reflect the most recent, up-to-date information.”

Masalsky is waiting to hear about a number of proposals now and is hopeful about the outcome. “The current economy has created the most difficult private funding climate in the past 30 years,” Masalsky noted. “Even so, we have tremendous cause for optimism, as we have made important inroads toward securing corporate and foundation funding that will help us continue to provide a world-class education for Milton's students.”

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