**THIS IS A DECISION PAPER**

**TO:** Members of the Hardin County Board of Education

**FROM:** Nannette Johnston, Superintendent

**DATE:** November 7th, 2011

**RE:** Request approval for East Hardin Middle School seventh grade students and sponsors to take an educational trip to Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.

In accordance with policy 09.36, I request approval for East Hardin MS seventh grade students and sponsors to take a school related trip to the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. This trip is tentatively scheduled for February 19 – 24, 2012. The approximate number of students will be 45 students. For every nine paying students there will be one chaperone. Students and chaperones will leave via commercial carrier at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning February 19th. One chaperone will be driving their personal vehicle in case of an emergency. We will arrive back at school approximately 7:30 p.m. Friday the 24th.

The cost of the trip per student is approximately $300.00. This price includes a discount for cooperative teaching (a savings of $73.00 per student) 30% per student off for coming in February. Fundraising opportunities will be made available to all students. Tremont also offers financial aid to students who apply, in an effort to “leave no child inside.” Approximate cost for each adult will be $200.00 and fundraising will be done to pay for teachers/adults. One teacher will be free due to attending sessions earlier this year.

Tremont is located within the Smoky Mountains National Park. Students will be inspired, challenged, surprised and awakened by the beauty and the diversity that lies within them. Tremont has linked its curriculum closely to national science standards and the park’s exciting new All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory. Environment-based education dramatically improves standardized test scores and grade-point averages and develops skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making. The lessons and activities emphasize a hands-on approach allowing students and teachers to become cooperative learners, seeking the answers to the mysteries together in a way that can have a lasting impact on both.

This is just a sampling of the identified content standards that will be included during the field trip experience:

SC-07 ----1.1.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 3.4.2, 3.5.1, 4.7.1, 4.6.4

MA-07----1.4.1, 2.1.1, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 5.1.2

RD-07----1.0.1, 2.0.4, 2.0.7, 3.0.2, 3.0.4, 3.0.8, 3.0.9

**RECOMMENDATION:**

I recommend that the Hardin County board of Education approve East Hardin Middle School seventh grade trip to Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

I move that the Hardin County Board of Education approves the East Hardin seventh grade trip.

**ATTACHMENT :** Agenda of Activities

Also note the evening presenters will be the following: Storytelling with Elizabeth Rose, Birds of Prey Program with the Knoxville Zoo, Folk Music with Sean McCollough, Lost Mill String Band, and Folk Dancing with Bob Grimac.