May 6, 2014

To: Hardin County Schools Board Members and Nannette Johnston, Superintendent

From: Heartland Elementary Site Base Council

 Emily Campbell, Principal and Chair

Regarding: 2014-14-5 School Supply Fee

On April 8, 2014 Heartland’s site base council met in regular session to discuss continuing our $25 school supply fee program for the 2014-15 school year. Discussion was held about how successful the school supply fee was this year. In addition we discussed how the funds were recorded and managed as well what items were purchased with the school supply fee.

From April 16, 2014- May 5, 2014 we administered a school supply fee survey through Survey Monkey. The survey was made available to all parents preschool-fifth grade.

The concerns and misconceptions that were mentioned in the survey have been addressed

through a “quick facts” sheet that has been sent home to all parents. Like this past school year,

free and reduced families will not be required to pay the supply fee and will be given free school

supplies if requested. Fee waiver forms will be offered to all families for the 2014-15 school year

in order to give parents an opportunity to communicate to administration the need to be exempt.

All funds paid to the school will go through our local school account and will be documented

following Redbook guidelines. No funds will be used to purchase food for rewards or

for classroom parties. Food that is purchased for rewards is spent from our BoxTops fund and

food for parties are usually purchased by the teachers or parent volunteers.

The $25 supply fee will be used strictly on school supply materials such as glue sticks, pencils,

copy paper and lined paper, binders, folders etc. $5 of the school supply fee goes towards the

student planner while the school picks ups the shipping cost which averages out to about $5.

Currently the school purchases and supplies tissues, hand sanitizer and paper towels for

every teacher and will continue to do so for the 2014-15 school year. We are also looking into

getting donation for other supplies such as glue sticks and pencils,

Attached to this decision paper are the results from our parent survey. We have approximately

625 students preschool- fifth grade. 139 people responded to our survey. If you have any

questions please feel free to contact me by e-mail at emily.campbell@hardin.kyschools.us or at

school at (270) 769-8930. On behalf of our site base council and staff, thank you for your time

and consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**I RECOMMEND THE BOARD APPROVE HEARTLAND ELEMENTARY TO COLLECT A $25 SCHOOL SUPPLY FEE FOR THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

**I MOVE THE BOARD APPROVE HEARTLAND ELEMENTARY TO COLLECT A $25**

**SCHOOL SUPPLY FEE FOR THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**Heartland Elementary School Supply Survey**

**Page 1 of 3 responses**

**Question 1**

**Yes 75.54%** 105

**No 13.67%** 19

**Not sure 12.23%** 17

**Q1 Are you in favor of paying a school supply fee for the 2014-2015 school year?**

**Please explain your answer. Answered: 139 Skipped: 0**

**Total Respondents: 139**

**# Other (please specify) Date**

**1** This was a wonderful way to assist parents who may work odd hours and not have a great deal of time to fit into the schedule shopping for school supplies. Also, when school gets closer to being back in session, the supplies can be difficult to find! 5/5/2014 4:40 PM

**2** I like the option of just paying a fee. The teacher can order what they need and if at anytime in the year they require more supplies they can send a list out.

5/4/2014 10:48 PM

**3** Our family is moving to Lexington, Ky so this won't apply to us next year. 5/4/2014 10:23 PM

**4** Yes, I'm very busy and it saves me the time and trouble of having to get the items needed that the teacher needs. The teacher can get what she needs as time progresses. She/he won't have a room full of paper towels/ tissue boxes... It also saves the gas of all the parents going to the store versus one to do all the shopping. I think this is a Fantastic idea. All schools should have this implemented. I hope this passes and continues. 5/3/2014 1:32 PM

**5** It is both time saving and cost saving for the school to purchase the supplies needed. 5/2/2014 12:35 PM

**6** I have paid for supplies the last year and it is not economical for my family and my children were unhappy with the supplies they received.

4/27/2014 8:02 PM

**7** buying the supplies is part of the fun of going back to school but it is convenient for parents if the

teacher buys the supplies and they get what they will need for the class room.

4/24/2014 11:04 PM

**8 I**t is much easier and cheaper to pay the school to obtain our student's supplies; especially when teachers want specialty items that are hard to find. We appreciate the fee as an option !!!!!! 4/24/2014 12:16 PM

**9** I would prefer to pay a flat fee than shop off school lists. I would rather the teachers get exactly what they need with the money they are given. I know the school can buy in bulk. 4/23/2014 9:13 PM

**Heartland Elementary School Supply Survey**

**Page 2 of 3 Question 1 continued**

**10** If the fee purchases the same amount of good quality supplies for all students, I think the school supply fee is a convenient way to handle the need. However, with the amount of taxes HCS takes in every year, and with all of the major projects initiated by HCS, but funded by taxpayers, one would think that all schools would be provided through taxed funds the paper products, wipes, hand sanitizer, and Expo markers, etc. that parents are expected to send in. The schools, including HES, cannot help that they are not funded for this need, but it seems like there's so much money that's

being spent by HCS in the county, you'd think some of it could go to supplies and technology for the school, so we could avoid fundraising all the time.4/23/2014 3:44 PM

**11** With a single mom of three boys that attend Heartland Elementary it makes it so much easier. 4/23/2014 8:51 AM

**12** Loved it the last 2 years! 4/22/2014 7:32 PM

**13** This is much easier than going out to find all the different things needed. With the teacher getting the supplies, she/he can get exactly what is needed. 4/22/2014 2:47 PM

**14** It's easier for parents and for teachers it allows them to get what they want and what they need. I feel like it is a win win situation! 4/22/2014 1:00 PM

**15** Much easier for parents! 4/22/2014 12:40 PM

**16** either way: paying a fee or buying supplies is fine as long as parents know ahead of time. 4/22/2014 8:46 AM

**17** Ensures the child gets the item required. 4/22/2014 8:28 AM

**18** We would pay less by buying the separate items. Plus our children get to pick out their own items. It's fun for the children & gets them more involved, & ready to start the school year. 4/22/2014 12:17 AM

**19** For several reasons: 1. easier on parents; 2. kids all have the same stuff; and 3. teachers can get bulk discounts? tax break? buy when on sale? 4/21/2014 10:29 PM

**20** We enjoy choosing our supplies together, and we feel like the supply fee ruins that. 4/21/2014 10:04 PM

**21** Too many supplies needed throughout the year after paying fee at the beginning of school year. 4/21/2014 9:58 PM

**22** It is never enough 4/21/2014 9:36 PM

**23** I would rather go school shopping with my child. It doesn't seem like the supply fee goes a long way, teachers are still in need of wish list items. I think teachers are less likely to ask for extra supplies since they have already asked parents for the initial fee.

4/21/2014 8:29 PM

**24** Ease of getting the correct supplies desired by teacher. No hastles going to multiple stores only to find out items are sold out. No waiting in lines. Cost is relatively comparative to buying individual items separately. There is a cost savings involved when we buy in bulk. 4/21/2014 5:51 PM

**25** It seems to have worked well in the past. Also, it is likely more economical, since supplies can be obtained by teachers or the school who may receive discounts.

4/21/2014 5:35 PM

**26** Much rather pay the fee than try to find the exact supplies myself. The teacher knows best which supplies are needed. 4/21/2014 5:22 PM

**27** Even by grade teachers use materials differently. Also changes and adjustments sometimes need to be made throughout the year. Having funds allows teachers to buy and adjust as needed. 4/21/2014 5:10 PM

**28** I think it makes it easier on the parents and teachers 4/21/2014 5:01 PM

**29** Although we give this $25, teachers ask for more throughout the year. Also, teachers receive money to buy supplies for their classroom. 4/21/2014 4:42 PM

**30** By December, the teachers were asking for supplies such as pencils, paper, markers, etc. My child only had about 10 sheets of loose leaf paper in his binder and I had to keep replenishing it from home throughout the year. Also, my child's class did not have ANY erasers and the children had to mark out mistakes instead of erasing them. If every child had paid the supply fee, there should be no need to replenish these items by the end of the first semester. 4/21/2014 3:50 PM

**31** We will be at Bluegrass Middle School for that school year 4/21/2014 3:38 PM

**32** because regardless if we buy supplies for the kids, the teachers keep it all anyway. 4/21/2014 3:27 PM

**33** It helps the me and the school by paying the fee.. I same money. The school gets the supplies our children need. 4/21/2014 3:26 PM

**34** I like not having to scramble for things on a list. 4/21/2014 3:13 PM

**Heartland Elementary School Supply Survey**

**Page 3 of 3 Question 1 continued**

**35** Quick and easy 4/21/2014 2:42 PM

**36** No one is in favor of paying anymore than they have to 4/21/2014 1:48 PM

**37** I love having the one-time school supply fee. Everything is taken care of and I don't have to fight through the aisles at the stores 4/21/2014 1:38 PM

**38** It is more convenient for the parent, but for some kids it's exciting to pick out their own supplies. 4/21/2014 1:24 PM

**39** I would prefer to take that special time with my child picking supplies for school. The fee takes the excitement out if school. 4/21/2014 11:42 AM

**40** Too much $$$$$ 4/21/2014 10:44 AM

**41** Even after paying the fee, my child's classroom still needed many extra supplies throughout the year. 4/21/2014 10:36 AM

**42** only if the school supplies purchased are enough for the entire year, I don't want teachers to have to eat the cost later in the year 4/21/2014 9:49 AM

**43** My daughter just started attending Heartland Elementary in Jan 2014. If this includes all drinks and cupcakes/cookies for parties, I think it is a fair price. I'm taking into consideration the time and gas prices as well in getting the items when needed.

4/21/2014 8:52 AM

**44** Much more convenient and efficient to do it this way, vs everyone shopping for their own supplies. 4/21/2014 8:25 AM

**45** HES' school supply fee is a fair and reasonable price; probably cheaper than what I would spend. It's a great time saver and much appreciated! 4/21/2014 7:47 AM

**46** No hassle 4/21/2014 7:21 AM

**47** With 3 children in 3 different schools it is a load off my plate. 4/20/2014 9:45 PM

**48** This way the students get excatly what the teachers want them to have. 4/20/2014 8:32 AM

**49** Its easier 4/19/2014 2:52 PM

**50** I like to buy supplies from the teacher's request list. 4/18/2014 9:13 PM

**51** I much prefer the teacher getting the supplies needed for the classes. Possibly at a better price than I could. 4/18/2014 6:42 PM

**52** My opinion, we (parents) can pay a simple fee for supplies the makes it easier on the parent and the teacher. We aren't hunting down specifics and the teachers have exactly what each student needs, it's a win win! 4/18/2014 3:06 PM

**Heartland Elementary School Supply Survey**

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**Yes 76.26%** 106

**No 10.07%** 14

**Not sure 14.39%** 20

**Q2 Do you think $25 is a reasonable amount to pay for a school supply fee? This does include the cost of the student planner for 1st-5th grades.**

**Answ ered: 139 Skipped: 0**

**Total Respondents: 139**

**Comments:**

**1** VERY reasonable. It is much easier to buy supplies in bulk for a better price, and if you are purchasing items for individual students, it can become costly. $25 is very reasonable! 5/5/2014 4:40 PM

**2** But, if you need to raise the amount to accommodate for more healthier drinks and for eating, I'm for that adjustment. 5/3/2014 1:32 PM

**3** I believe that the minimum school supply list can be purchased for less than $25. 4/27/2014 8:02 PM

**4** school supplies do not cost this much including the planner. 4/24/2014 11:04 PM

**5** I don't know if $25 is enough. We wouldn't mind paying more if teachers were able to get enough for an entire year instead of a select group of parents always providing more throughout the year. Not sure of parents understand that teachers pay for so much out of pocket, 4/24/2014 12:16 PM

**6** Very reasonable!!!!!!! 4/23/2014 9:13 PM

**7** It depends on the amount of supplies needed for the students. If the students in the lower grades are provided a comparable amount of supplies as the older grades, I think it would be fine. However, at the end of the year, what happens to the supplies that are not used? Do they stay in the school or are they sent home with the kids? When I buy my own supplies, I can usually reuse some items another year or two. 4/23/2014 3:44 PM

**8** Absolutely, the teachers can get EXACTLY what the classroom needs! 4/22/2014 7:32 PM

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**9** I think it's a very fair amount. When spending on school supplies in past years our personal buying exceeded that amount, wouldn't be opposed to up to a $50.00 fee, if it meant better supplies for students/teachers, and then those families who couldn't afford to pay that amount, wouldn't have to, and the teachers/staff would have plenty to work with. 4/22/2014 1:00 PM

**10** 20 may suffice 4/22/2014 11:23 AM

**11** Sorry, but that is ridiculous. 4/22/2014 12:17 AM

**12** I would expect student specific supplies to be a little less, but if you include classroom supplies and "wish-list" items, it may be spot on. However, this amount may be more than some families spend on supplies. Is there a provision for those who cannot afford? 4/21/2014 10:29 PM

**13** Seems like a lot of money. Just my opinion. 4/21/2014 9:58 PM

**14** Ok if everyone pays; right now, some kids pay for other kids supplies because they do not pay. Therefore, the class needs supplies by the winter break. 4/21/2014 9:58 PM

**15** I could buy my child's school supplies cheaper during back to school sales. My child also likes to pick out their own things. 4/21/2014 9:37 PM

**16** In other years the planner was 5$ so that leaves 20$ in supply money is that really enough for MY child for the year? No it's not 4/21/2014 9:36 PM

**17** I can't remember the cost of the planner by itself. However, in past years when I have not paid a school supply fee, I don't remember spending very much when I went to Walmart to do the school supply shopping myself. 4/21/2014 8:49 PM

**18** depends on what supplies this fee covers 4/21/2014 7:56 PM

**19** My child is kindergarden.. 4/21/2014 6:00 PM

**20** I think parents should get a budget breakdown from each teacher to help more parents better understand how fee supplies are being applied per each classroom.

4/21/2014 5:10 PM

**21** It depends on whether the children actually receive ample supplies for the school year. This year they did not. 4/21/2014 3:50 PM

**22** My child does not get a school planner 4/21/2014 3:34 PM

**23** it should include the planner as well. especially for elementary level kids. 4/21/2014 3:27 PM

**24** If it is needed then 25 is reasonable 4/21/2014 1:48 PM

**25** Depends on what the price of the planner is by itself. 4/21/2014 1:24 PM

**26** I think the fee should be no more than $20 if enforced. 4/21/2014 11:42 AM

**27** Would like to see the planner also paid for with this cost to get all done at one time. 4/21/2014 11:30 AM

**28** I can get my supplies cheaper than $25. 4/21/2014 10:44 AM

**29** This school year that did not seem to provide what my child needed. 4/21/2014 10:36 AM

**30** Once again if the price includes all the supplies needed for the year 4/21/2014 9:49 AM

**31** I have enjoyed the planner. 4/21/2014 8:52 AM

**32** Are teachers able to get enough supplies for the $25.00 fee? My child's teacher has requested several items throughout the year. 4/19/2014 8:40 PM

**33** That's a lot when you have several children but if that's best for teachers we will pay it. 4/18/2014 9:13 PM

**34** I think that's a very reasonable fee. I don't believe I could supply my child for less. 4/18/2014 3:06 PM

**35** It seems reasonable. 4/18/2014 3:04 PM

**Heartland Elementary School Supply Survey**

**Q3 OPTIONAL: In the space below, please provide additional comments regarding our school supply program.**

**Answ ered: 50 Skipped: 89**

**1** LOVE the flat fee! $25 is completely reasonable and well worth the time it saves our family. 5/5/2014 5:56 PM

**2** This was our first year at Heartland, and also the first year that we had ever paid the school instead of buying the supplies ourselves. It was great for our family! All we had to worry about was clothes and a backpack! Thank you! 5/5/2014 4:40 PM

**3** Please provide 100% juice or bottled water for students like my daughter that only drinks that. Those sugary drinks I feel are not only NOT healthy and full of sugar but "taste horrible" and my daughter went through the whole party without drinking anything. Also, maybe some of the cupcakes/ cakes for the parties can be bought at Sam's where they have the whipped topping. My daughter also commented that that the cupcakes were so sugary due to the icing on the top she couldn't not enjoy those either. I feel that we need to be more consciences of what we give our kids especially with the rate of children obesity and type 1 diabetes on the rise. Thank you. 5/3/2014 1:32 PM

**4** There are so many back to school sales that we can do better individually, and we can stock up on the items the teachers will need later in the year. Plus we can get the colors and styles the kids want. 5/2/2014 8:02 PM

**5** If the determined fees are sufficient to provide for the classroom for the entire school year. It might work well to save a portion of the collected fees for re-stock at mid year, if storage in the classrooms is a problem. 5/2/2014 12:35 PM

**6** I believe I can get my Childs supplies for less than the $25 fee 4/28/2014 9:31 PM

**7** what if the parents donated 10 dollars, bought our own supplies and planner? HOnestly the planners are a nice idea but by the end of the year the kids just write all over them and dont really use them. at least in my experience they don’t. 4/24/2014 11:04 PM

**8** While I actually miss the experience of shopping for school supplies, it is much easier and more economical to pay the fee. 4/24/2014 3:09 PM

**9** I feel having the school supply fee is a great benefit not only to the parents but the children as well. All the children would have the same supplies thus eliminating ,Johnny has a batman pencil and i don't. Plus as parents we don't have to go searching for each class list. The teachers know what they need. I love paying the fee! 4/24/2014 2:46 PM

**10** We have been happy to pay the fee. It saves us time and money, the only complaints that I hear from others are from those whose grandparents pay for school supplies but that is such a minute portion, that I don't think that it should be considered a legitimate complaint. 4/24/2014 12:16 PM

**11** I think it's great! It saves parents time & money!! Thank you!! 4/23/2014 9:13 PM

**12** If there are any additional supplies that are needed throughout the year, I am not opposed to provided more money or even provideing those supplies as needed. I will have a child attending Kindergarten this year and know that there will be more supplies needed. 4/23/2014 5:28 PM

**13** Overall, I would be interested in participating in the school supply program. I think it would be nice for the kids to be able to choose (as much possible) what colors at least a couple of their supplies would be. I would also be interest in knowing what items would be covered in the supply fee, and if any of the items would actually belong to the students. Thank you. 4/23/2014 3:44 PM

**14** Leave a supply bin in a known location in the school where parents can drop items as they find them throughout the year at a good price. Have teachers add items to a list placed above the bin and also list these needs on the school website. 4/23/2014 9:20 AM

**15** We still go shopping and get home supplies, and this way I can keep them separate!! Thanks So Much for this opportunity!!! 4/22/2014 7:32 PM

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**16** Love it! Routinely hear from friends in other school districts and other states that they have a $50.00 school supply fee, but less fundraising, less wish list requirements (that our teachers never ask for!) feel like a school supply fee would only make it easier school wide for the teachers to have money on what they need it for. 4/22/2014 1:00 PM

**17** I am all for paying the supply few but in some cases school supplies may total less than $25. 4/22/2014 12:23 PM

**18** I am in favor of the school supply program. It not only gives the school bulk rates opportunities but it is hassel-free for parents. 4/22/2014 11:20 AM

**19** Can it be refundable if the student moves districts or transferred in district? 4/22/2014 9:24 AM

**20** I greatly appreciate the fact that you do this. The $25 is far less than I would end up spending if I had to shop for this myself. The sales on school supplies help but the time and money spent on gas would more than fill the gap of the savings. THANK YOU!

4/22/2014 9:16 AM

**21** Just think it's better for the children & the parents all around, to just buy their own school supplies. 4/22/2014 12:17 AM

**22** Check out Staples coupons. We have gotten several cases of copy paper totally free after rebate in the last couple months. I hear they offer other free and practically free items throughout the year. 4/21/2014 10:29 PM

**23** 1. My child enjoys picking out individual supplies 2. Uniqueness should be possible; right now, everyone has the same things... 3. Classrooms don't have enough supplies for school year and the teacher has to ask parents for items week after week 4. My child will always have supplies for school; my child should not have to provide supplies to the entire class. the way it is set up now, certain kids always provide for the class while others NEVER bring anything (school supply included) 4. There is no enforcement of everyone bringing in the money, so the teacher does not have funds needed to last the entire year. 4/21/2014 9:58 PM

**24** The buying power you have for 500 students should allow you the most leverage for your purchasing power. 4/21/2014 9:51 PM

**25** Teachers are still needing supplies throughout the school year even after the fee. 4/21/2014 9:37 PM

**26** I'm tired of having to pay a school supply fee and then knowing that other parents are not having to pay it cause of funds so not only am I required to pay for my kids I then have to bring in supplies threw out the year cause the teacher doesn't have enough. It's not fare I have to pay for other students.i would rather buy a bag of supplies for my child only and when that bag is empty I go and buy more for my child's bag only. This way I can see what supplies they are using and knowing that it's not going to another child. 4/21/2014 9:36 PM

**27** My opinion: if I can get the supplies my child needs on my own and end up spending less, then that's what I'd rather do. 4/21/2014 8:49 PM

**28** Not sure that every child in the classroom pays the fee and don't see how this money last the teacher the entire school year. 4/21/2014 8:29 PM

**29** The school supply program is excellent. It really helps take the stress off the parents. 4/21/2014 5:55 PM

**30** Thank you for providing this service. It is so easy for us and very cost-effective. 4/21/2014 5:51 PM

**31** Parents just need more information and better understanding about what the fee is for and why and how it is used. I believe many parents are unaware of what items are not furnished for classrooms and teachers. Many know nothing of how much teachers spend from their own pockets on their students. This information may help encourage some parents who refuse to pay or say they cannot afford to. 4/21/2014 5:10 PM

**32** I would be willing to pay $30 if you asked. 4/21/2014 4:11 PM

**33** I think it should be optional. If the parent wants to pay the supply fee, they should be able to, but the parents who would rather their child have their own supplies (and enough of them) should be able to buy for their own child. I don't believe that every parent is paying their fee each year, and I don't feel it should be my job to provide another child's supplies because the child's parent did not send in supply fee. If every child is responsible for his/her own supplies, the parent HAS to step up and provide for their child. The way it is now, a few parents in each class are paying for the

classmates whose parents did not pay. This is not fair to the parents who pay the fee and then still have to send supplies from home because the class runs out.

4/21/2014 3:50 PM

**34** This is a wonderful idea! We enjoyed not having the hassle of shopping during the crazy time if back to school. I also like this so that the teachers can purchased what they need when they need it. 4/21/2014 3:30 PM

**Heartland Elementary School Supply Surve**y

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**35** This is such a helpful service! 4/21/2014 3:29 PM

**36** I think the school supply fee is the best thing the school system started, its a reasonable fee and its convenient 4/21/2014 1:38 PM

**37** I think parents should be given the choice to pay the fee or buy their children's own supplies. Each teacher could be given the count of children that want supplies bought for them. 4/21/2014 1:24 PM

**38** I love being able to shop for supplies for my child. It helps us both get excited about school, but when we are forced to pay the fee we have nothing to look forward too.

4/21/2014 11:42 AM

**39** Do free and reduced students have to pay the $25? Is the $25 a suggestion? 4/21/2014 10:44 AM

**40** I like not having to shop for my child, but feel my child was very limited on supplies this year. 4/21/2014 10:36 AM

**41** at first I was opposed to the fee however if it does make it easier on the teachers I am all for it 4/21/2014 9:49 AM

**42** Great way for teacher to get exactly what they need. Easier on parents to not have to shop from a list. 4/21/2014 8:56 AM

**43** My daughter states that only sugary drinks have been served during parties. She only drinks juices or water. Apple juice.I think there should be choices of juice and bottled water included. 4/21/2014 8:52 AM

**44** PLEASE DON'T STOP THIS! :-) 4/21/2014 7:47 AM

**45** I love it!!! 4/21/2014 5:49 AM

**46** Love the school supply fee!!! Very helpful. 4/19/2014 10:51 PM

**47** I think it should be a little more or collected again halfway through the year when supplies are running out. I couldn't buy all the supplies for a year with $25.

4/19/2014 8:41 PM

**48** No comments...I'm in favor 4/18/2014 6:42 PM

**49** More events at the school to bring in monies for teachers to have additional resources and to accommodate for families that cannot afford the fee. Maybe an option to donate an extra $1-$10 when paying the supply fee? 4/18/2014 3:06 PM

**50** I'd like to know how purchases are made because more supplies are needed throughout the year. Is each teacher responsible for her own or is the funding pooled for larger buying power? Though I realize many cannot contribute more, is it enough?

4/18/2014 3:04 PM