



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: May 12, 2017
FROM: Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent
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For Introduction: May 17, 2017
For Action: June 7, 2017

1. TITLE

Accepting transportation and crossing guard grants from the City of Seattle

2. PURPOSE

This Board Action Report authorizes the Superintendent to accept two grants from the City of Seattle for the 2017-18 school year, which has indicated that they will be providing funding for the move to a 2-tier transportation system and the School Crossing Guard Program.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept two grants from the City of Seattle if approved by the City on or before June 15th for the 2017-18 school year: 1) the one-time-only funding to move to a 2-tier busing system in the amount of \$2.3 million, and 2) the annual funding of the School Crossing Guard Program, in the amount of up to \$400,000. I further move that the Superintendent be authorized, ~~and~~ to take any necessary actions to implement the grants, including minor modifications to the Transportation Service Standards.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Background: After four years of research around the American Association of Pediatrics and American Medical Association recommendations to move start times for adolescents later so that they match students' biological and sleeping patterns, as well as studying the impacts of the schedule change on schools and central operations, the School Board voted to implement the changes to bell times on November 18, 2015. A three-tier transportation system was continued for the 2016-17 school year. However, community input during the analysis and implementation phases was very clear: families wanted a two-tier bus system so that school start times would be no earlier than 8:00am and no later than 9:00am.

During the budget development process for the 2017-18 school year, the School Board and staff had to close a \$74 million budget gap. The School Board was clear when they adopted the Transportation Service Standards for 2017-18 in January 2017 that there would need to be external funding for the \$2.3 million needed to make the change to a 2-tier transportation system. The Transportation Department also eliminated the School Crossing Guard Program in order to meet the required budget reductions.

The Mayor has proposed providing funds for these two areas from City of Seattle funds. The City Council will have to approve the use of these funds. As that process moves forward, this action report is being advanced concurrently so that final resolution will come as soon as possible and both City providers and District families can finalize plans for the 2017-18 school year.

The Seattle School Traffic Safety committee recommends crossing guards at 106 sites around the district. The grant would fund up to 106 positions; both the district and the City (when they managed the program) have had issues filling positions due to split shifts and few hours.

Alternatives: The district could continue with a 3-tier transportation system. Twelve schools would remain in the third tier, which has a start time of 9:25am and causes childcare issues for families. First tier schools would continue to start at 7:45am. This would be outside of the School Traffic Safety Committee recommendations of an 8:00am start time for safe elementary student walking times.

Not accepting the grant from the City and removing the School Crossing Guard program is not advised due to student safety concerns.

Research: See Background information

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action will be the acceptance of \$2,682,270 in grant funding.

The \$2.3M for the 2-tier busing system is one-time-only funding from the City and the District will need to fund an estimated \$2.3M in the 2018-19 school year and beyond based on the most recent transportation revenue forecast.

The \$382,270 for the School Crossing Guard program is ongoing funding and will continue annually, subject to approval by the City each year.

The revenue source for this motion is the City of Seattle.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

Revenue: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable: community engagement took place during bell-times analysis and implementation.

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

The Race and Equity Toolkit was used to inform District and Task Force recommendations on bell times including the prioritization of schools in the 2016-17 arrival/departure time schedules and the current request for 2 Tiers. These funds would be used to implement 2 Tiers and enable ~~for all~~ schools to more closely meet the Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee recommendation for all elementary students. During the 2016-17 bell-times changes, most of the high poverty schools were moved into the early tiers per community input. Of the remaining 3rd Tier schools, 2 schools have FRL data above 50%. This funding would also support these schools moving to earlier tiers.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

Due to the bell-times adjustment, secondary students have self-reported on the school climate survey that they are sleeping more.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)

Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)

Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy

Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract

Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter

Board Policy No. _____, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item

Other: _____

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

Policy No. 6114, Gifts, Grants, Donations & Fundraising Proceeds, requires Board approval of grants of more than \$250,000. And Policy No. 1240, Committees, directs the approval process through the Audit and Finance Committee.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the May 11, 2017 Audit and Finance Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved it forward to the full board with a recommendation for approval.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this action and receipt of the grants from the City of Seattle, staff will immediately begin the routing process that will implement the 2-tier system and accommodate as many requests from individual schools as possible. Schools have been notified of the 2-tier change when the City of Seattle indicated it would make funds available. It is the goal of staff to notify all schools, families, and community-based providers of start and end times by mid-June for their planning purposes.

13. ATTACHMENTS

N/A