



# **SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT**

**DATE:** December 9, 2016  
**FROM:** Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent  
**LEAD STAFF:** Michael Stone, Director of Grants, Fiscal Compliance & Strategic Partnerships, mastone@seattleschools.org; Michael Tolley, Associate Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, mtolley@seattleschools.org

## **1. TITLE**

Kids In The Middle Grant from the Nesholm Family Foundation

**For Introduction:** January 18, 2017

**For Action:** February 1, 2017

## **2. PURPOSE**

This Board Action will approve acceptance of the Kids in the Middle grant from the Nesholm Family Foundation that provides support to the three highest poverty middle schools: Aki Kurose, David T. Denny International and Asa Mercer International.

## **3. RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the Board authorize the Superintendent to accept the Kids In The Middle grant funds from the Nesholm Family Foundation, in the amount of \$554,534.

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- A. Background: Since 2002-03, the Nesholm Family Foundation has provided \$6.6M in total to the District, averaging \$475,000 per year, in support of the *Kids in the Middle grant*. This grant, awarded each year to the three highest poverty middle schools, Aki Kurose, Denny International, and Mercer, focuses on literacy improvements as the key to student learning and achievement. To this end, the *Kids in the Middle* initiative works to develop teachers' knowledge, skills and practices in reading and writing instruction; maintain high professional standards; and apply research tested instructional practice. By giving teachers the support they need to develop crucial skills to narrowing the achievement gap in reading and writing, *Kids in the Middle* enables teachers to better serve students in becoming readers who experience both the pleasure and power of being independent, college and career ready readers.

Each of the three schools receives funds to increase reading and writing achievement. Use of the monies is earmarked for: an additional Assistant Principal to focus on literacy instruction and teacher evaluation; substitute teachers and professional development time; supplies, travel and other expenses approved by the Nesholm Foundation; and textual materials. Additionally, Mercer Middle School receives a 0.2 FTE teacher.

In addition to the grant awarded to the middle schools, the Nesholm Family Foundation provides professional development and instructional coaching for all three of the middle schools through an independent contract with Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Network. The Nesholm Family Foundation also contracts with Sound Mental

Health to provide a mental health professional in each school as a means of addressing the socio-emotional challenges students experience that interfere with learning.

B. Alternatives: Alternative action would be to not accept the funds. This is not recommended as these funds provide much needed support toward Strategic Goal 1: Ensure Educational Excellence & Equity for Every Student, Strategy 2: Elevate professional practice by investing in effective, culturally responsive teachers, staff and leaders.

C. Research:

Appendix A: Aki Kurose Middle School data presentation

Appendix B: Denny International Middle School data presentation

## 5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action will be an acceptance of funds in the amount of \$554,534. Funds are in direct support to middle schools. See attached letter from Alliance for Education for individual school funding.

The revenue source for this motion is the Nesholm Family Foundation, via the Alliance For Education.

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

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

The Kids in the Middle grant from the Nesholm Family Foundation has been an ongoing grant since 2002 for Aki Kurose, Mercer International and Denny International Middle Schools. These funds have provided additional administrative and instructional support with a specific focus on student literacy.

## 7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

The Kids in the Middle Grant provides funding to 3 of the district's highest Free & Reduced Lunch percentage middle schools. The grant funds provide additional staffing and professional development for staff which serve our most diverse middle school students.

**8. STUDENT BENEFIT**

Students will benefit through enhanced literacy instructions to meet state literacy standards.

**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**

Per Board Policy No. 6114, *Gifts, Grants, Donations and Fundraising Proceeds*, Board action is necessary because the total amount of the grant exceeds \$250,000 per school year.

**11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

This motion was discussed at the Audit & Finance Committee meeting on January 12, 2017. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved this item forward to the full Board for approval.

**12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon approval of this motion, the District will move forward with setting up the grant funds at Aki Kurose, Denny International, and Mercer, as outlined on the attached letter of commitment.

**13. ATTACHMENTS**

- Letter of commitment from the Alliance For Education
- Student achievement reading data from Aki Kurose Middle School, Denny International Middle School and Asa Mercer Middle School