



# **SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT**

**DATE:** March 22, 2019  
**FROM:** Ms. Denise Juneau, Superintendent  
**LEAD STAFF:** Michael Stone, Director of Grants, Fiscal Compliance & Strategic Partnerships, [mastone@seattleschools.org](mailto:mastone@seattleschools.org);  
JoLynn Berge, Chief Financial Officer, [jdberge@seattleschools.org](mailto:jdberge@seattleschools.org)

**For Introduction:** May 1, 2019  
**For Action:** May 15, 2019

## **1. TITLE**

*Kids in the Middle* grant from the Nesholm Family Foundation

## **2. PURPOSE**

This Board Action will approve acceptance of the *Kids in the Middle* grant for \$690,596 from the Nesholm Family Foundation to provide 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 \$690,596 for the 2019-20 school year.

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- a. **Background:** Since 2002-03, the Nesholm Family Foundation has provided \$8.0M 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 narrow 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 to support instructional coaching for Language Arts teachers.

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 Priority 1: High Quality Instruction and Learning Experiences, Priority 3: Culturally Responsive Workforce.
- c. **Research:** Data From: Aki Kurose, Denny International Middle School, and Mercer International Middle School.
  - Mercer International targeted 300 students who were below standard on the Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) in 2017. 160 of these students met standard on the 2018 SBA.
  - Aki Kurose targeted 52 students who were below standard on the SBA in 2017. 20 of these students met standard on the 2018 SBA.
  - Denny International targeted 88 students who were below standard on the SBA in 2017. 17 students moved from level 1 to above standard on the 2018 SBA.

**5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

Fiscal impact to this action will be an acceptance of funds in the amount of \$690,596. 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 three 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, which is in line with the 2019-24 Strategic plan priorities to focus on those student populations most underserved.

**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 April 22, 2019. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved it forward for consideration by the full Board.

**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

May 21, 2019

Michael Stone, Director of Grants, Fiscal Compliance & Strategic Partnerships  
 Seattle Public Schools  
 PO Box 34165, MS 33-182  
 Seattle, WA 98124-1165

RE: 2019-2020 Subgrant for the *Kids in the Middle Initiative*

Dear Michael,

This letter is to confirm the conditional commitment of the Alliance for Education to reimburse specific costs of the *Kids in the Middle* initiative for the 2019-20 school year using funds granted to the Alliance by the Nesholm Family Foundation (hereinafter, “Foundation”). Consistent with the Foundation’s recommendation, the Alliance will reimburse Seattle Public Schools (SPS) an aggregate total maximum of **\$690,596** for specified program costs at three middle schools. The table below identifies the three schools for which this support is intended and the types and amounts of maximum reimbursement that the Alliance will provide, subject to review by the Alliance and the Foundation of SPS’ invoices with cost details.

<b>Expense Item for 2019-20 Project Year (9/1/2019 – 8/31/2020)</b>	<b>Aki Kurose Middle School</b>	<b>Mercer Middle School</b>	<b>Denny Middle School</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Salaries & Benefits of Middle School Assistant Principals (1 @ each school)	\$181,513	\$181,513	\$177,750	<b>\$540,596</b>
Substitute Teachers & Professional Development	\$22,000	\$5,000	\$22,000	<b>\$49,000</b>
Middle School Teacher .2 FTE (Mercer only)	\$0	\$26,000	\$0	<b>\$26,000</b>
Supplies, travel & other approved expenses	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	<b>\$60,000</b>
Textual materials	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>TOTAL Maximum reimbursements:</b>	<b>\$228,513</b>	<b>\$237,513</b>	<b>\$224,570</b>	<b>\$690,596</b>

Consistent with the customary invoice and reimbursement procedures that have existed between the parties for prior Foundation-funded grants, SPS shall submit invoices and reimbursement requests to the Alliance monthly with documentation showing expenditures for these specific allowable expenses tracked on the detail level (this pertains to the "budget to actual" control level). You may invoice for project-related expenses incurred between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020. SPS shall not charge indirect or other costs to this grant. The Alliance shall transmit each invoice and the related documentation to the Foundation for review. In your invoicing, please use the following:

- **Project Name:** *Middle School Literacy Support (Nesholm) 2018-19*
- **Code:** ***1C52-20***

This commitment to SPS is subject to the grant commitment from the Foundation to the Alliance dated March 19, 2019. In the event the Foundation withdraws, terminates or amends the commitment to the Alliance, this agreement from the Alliance to SPS will be amended or terminated as of the date of the Foundation’s decision.

To acknowledge your understanding of the terms of this agreement, please sign where indicated below. Then please scan and email the document [amy@alliance4ed.org](mailto:amy@alliance4ed.org). If you wish to discuss any of the terms of this agreement, please contact me at 206-205-0327.

Sincerely,

Amy Ward  
Chief Financial Officer

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**By the authorized signature, Seattle Public Schools agrees to the terms stated above:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Stone, Director of Grants, Fiscal Compliance & Strategic Partnerships

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

cc: Kenny Ching  
Min Yee  
Jim Molloy