



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE:

FROM: Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent

LEAD STAFF: Staff name/title/contact info; Applicable Cabinet member/title/contact info

1. TITLE

Motion to Accept Funds for Head Start Duration

For Introduction: January 4, 2017

For Action: January 18, 2017

2. PURPOSE

This Board Action Report accepts funding from the federal Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) to extend the hours of two Head Start classes beginning September 2017.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that Seattle Public Schools accepts \$322,808 from DHHS/Federal Government to extend two Head Start classes from its current 476 hours to 1020 contact hours annually, beginning September 2017.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. Background

With the recent release of new Head Start Performance Standards effective November 7, 2016, the Office of Head Start affirms its commitment to moving all Head Start services to a duration of no less than 1020 hours per year by fall of 2021. As a first step in this direction, Congress had authorized funds for programming beginning the fall of 2017 and SPS, in June, applied for funds made to extend Head Start services to 1020 hours per year for up to 4 classes, effective September 2017. The Office of Head Start responded to this proposal by asking SPS to reduce its request. SPS submitted a revised proposal on October 15 to extend services in two Head Start classes.

This motion will enable SPS to offer “full-day” Head Start services as SPS, along with all other Head Start grantees, begins its transition away from “part day, part year” services to “full-day” (i.e., 1020 hours) services. This transition is expected to take place over the next 5 years.

b. Alternatives

The alternative is to reject these funds. This would put us in a position contrary to the direction of the Head Start program nationally and would jeopardize additional funding in the years to come.

c. Research

The Office of Head Start cites a number of research studies supporting the impact of full-day versus part-day services in preparing children for success in school and in life. (attached)

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action will be \$322,808.

The revenue source for this motion is Department of Health & Human Services/Administration for Children and Families.

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

Community engagement began when SPS Head Start leadership engaged then-current Head Start parents in the spring of 2016 through a survey asking about parents’ interest in full-day services. Over 90% of parents responded affirmatively to the question: “If, when you enrolled your child in Head Start this past year, there had been a full-day option available, would you have enrolled in the full-day program?”

Community engagement continued as we discussed the opportunity and developed a proposal that was approved by the Head Start Policy Council (Policy Council), which includes parents and community representatives, and encouraged and developed in collaboration with SPS School Board through the Audit & Finance Committee and work with the SPS School Board Head Start Liaison, Director Geary.

The revised proposal was also developed collaboratively with Board and Policy Council input.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

The Head Start Leadership Team used the Racial Equity Analysis Tool to identify the key equitable outcome (access to Head Start full-day services – where to place the classes); communications (to Policy Council, Board, Program Leadership Team); and engagement of stakeholders (Policy Council and Board).

We identified data to review to determine if there were access issues implicated or unintended outcomes we could identify that would inform a decision of where to place the new full-day classes.

We have reviewed enrollment and waitlist historical data, children dropping from the program and the reasons for the drop, locations of homeless shelters, percentage of working parents, and location of current quality full-day opportunities within the City.

Enrollment and wait list data indicate need in all three areas of the City where we provide services (North, South, Southwest). Children who drop from the program do so for two primary reasons: First, the families move out of the area; second, the families move their child from a current part-day Head Start program to a program that offers full-day services. For roughly 2/3 of our families, the single parent or both parents are working, suggesting a need for full-day services. Finally, a mapping (attached) of quality full-day early childhood services shows considerable access in the South, limited access in the Southwest, and little access in the North.

We have also met with Facilities to assess access to space/classrooms in SPS elementary schools. The most logical and available classrooms for full-day services at this time are at Olympic Hills, Broadview-Thomson and Roxhill, where there is already space dedicated to Head Start programming and where we have access to a classroom to provide full-day services.

With a primary desired outcome of access and a mapping of quality full-day services reflecting considerable saturation in the South part of the City, we are recommending that the first two full-day classes be placed in the North (Olympic Hills) and the Southwest (Roxhill).

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

This action will make full-day Head Start services available to 40 children/families.

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

This action complies with Policy No. 6114, Gifts, Grants, Donations and Fundraising Proceeds.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at Audit & Finance Committee meeting on December 8, 2016. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved this item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, SPS Head Start will move forward with implementation plans. These include facilities upgrades as necessary, identification of criteria to assign staff to the positions, review and revision of child selection criteria, communications with current parents, review and revision of recruitment and enrollment materials, and review of job descriptions and training needs. Center parents and Policy Council will be engaged in these decisions over the next 3 months.

13. ATTACHMENTS

- Approval of Duration Funds
- Duration Proposal
- Full-day v Part-day Research
- Head Start and Full-day Quality Services Map