



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: February 26, 2018
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For Introduction: March 21, 2018
For Action: April 4, 2018

1. TITLE

Creation of Playground Redevelopment Fund

2. PURPOSE

This Board Action Report requests the funding of a Playground Redevelopment Project Fund of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to pay for playground installations and improvements. Prioritization will be given to Title I schools and/or schools unable to raise sufficient funds to complete installation or repair of playgrounds that are below current playground standards. Eligible schools will be notified of the funding opportunity when funds become available and can apply for projects and assistance by submitting a Self -Help application. Playground projects will proceed through the Self-Help program with review by the Operations Committee. District budget will be used in conjunction with other grants or outside funds following the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods 2018 Guidelines.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to create a Playground Redevelopment Project fund of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to be utilized for playground improvement projects as described in the Board Action Report.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. Background

Funding for playground equipment has been traditionally limited to the Capital program or the District Self Help Program. The Self-Help Program has been a mechanism for volunteer-initiated facility improvement and playground improvements in the District since the mid-1970s. Because some schools are not able to raise sufficient matching funds through PTA and other donations, utilizing this funding method for District playground installation and improvement is leaving a gap in the quality of our playgrounds. Creating a budget with priority given to Title I schools and or schools without PTA assistance will assist in closing the funding gap. Funding for projects will come from the CEP fund, to be repaid with BEX V dollars if passed.

- b. **Alternatives** Do not create a redevelopment fund. This is not recommended as the current model for funding has created an equity issue related to playgrounds.
- c. **Research** Playgrounds are an extension of a school’s learning environment. Numerous studies show the value of active play to support the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of children. A growing body of scientific literature has documented a link between rigorous activity and enhanced learning and improved test scores. Children engaged in active play strengthen bones and muscles; combat childhood obesity; and develop life-long habits for an active lifestyle. Active play can also contribute to decreased stress.

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action will be \$1,000,000.

The revenue source for this motion is the CEP Fund.

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

This action allows school communities to participate in the design process of Self-Help projects without committing general resources of their own. A principal goal of Self Help Projects – improvement projects initiated and implemented by the community – is to strengthen school/neighborhood/community bonds, and foster goodwill within the community. The project’s activities, together with the high expectations by grantors for rigorous community engagement as part of their matching grant requirements, has achieved robust community outreach and engagement for this project. The engagement strategies were used (1) to inform the school’s staff, students, families, and neighbors about the project, (2) to invite ideas from each of these groups regarding desired improvements, to incorporate them into the design, and (3) to ask for, and consider feedback from each of these groups regarding the plans as they were developed. Various avenues to seek input ensured participation from diverse audiences.

Some examples of outreach and engagement related to projects include:

- A steering committee, comprised of representatives of school families, staff and neighbors, has convened routinely for the last year to keep the project in a forward trajectory and ensure community involvement.
- During conceptual planning and construction documents phases:
 - Community meeting: Fliers posted at school and distributed to all school families, and volunteers distributed flier's door-to-door to homes surrounding the school to invite staff, families and neighbors to the first community meeting. Every participant encouraged to contribute their ideas for improving the playground. The design team consultants lead a brainstorming graphics exercise, after which participants share their thoughts with each other.
 - A second community meeting advertised similarly to the first, plus invitations sent via Evite to those who had attended the first meeting.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

Our current model for funding playgrounds has created an equity issue related to playground quality. Creating a funding model with priority given to Title I schools and or schools without outside funding assistance will aid in eliminating the equity issue.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

Playgrounds are an extension of the school's learning environment, and support the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of children. Updating and renovation some of our oldest playgrounds will result in a wide variety of active play options for students on a daily basis.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

- Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- Amount 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.6000, Program Planning, Budget Preparation, Adoption and Implementation, provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: _____

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

The following School Board policies are relevant to this action:
6000 Program Planning, Budget Preparation, Adoption and Implementation

6114 Gifts, Grants, Donations and Fundraising Proceeds
7115 Plaques, Name Plates and Donor Walls
6807 Self-Help Projects

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the Operations Committee meeting on March 8, 2018. The Committee reviewed the motion and it was recommended for consideration by the full Board.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, a Playground Redevelopment Budget will be established using dollars from the District CEP Fund.

13. Attachments

- None