



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: April 27, 2021
FROM: Dr. Brent C. Jones, Interim Superintendent
LEAD STAFF: Dr. Keisha Scarlett, Chief Academic Officer
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Cashel Toner, Executive Director Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction
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Hong-Nhi Do, Satterberg Administrator
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For Introduction: May 19, 2021

For Action: June 2, 2021

1. TITLE

Approval of Satterberg Foundation Elementary Feeder School Grant

2. PURPOSE

This Board Action report approves a grant from the Satterberg Foundation in the amount of \$950,000 for the 2021-22 school year.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept the Satterberg Foundation Elementary Feeder School Grant funds in the amount of \$950,000.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. **Background** In 2015, the Nesholm Foundation reached out to the Satterberg Foundation to share the widely recognized gap-closing successes from their Kids in the Middle investment at Aki Kurose Middle School, Denny International Middle School and Mercer International Middle School. As a result, the Satterberg Foundation met with District and school personnel to discuss opportunities to partner together to expand that work.

Principals of the three middle schools identified a critical area of need that would greatly enhance the success of district students, particularly as it aligns to Seattle Public Schools' districtwide focus on elevating the academics of African American males and students furthest from educational justice: intervene earlier by focusing on the highest need feeder elementary schools. Although these three middle schools are doing some of the state's most successful gap closing work, too many students of color are starting 6th grade far below standard in literacy. By intervening at our highest need elementary schools, the district will be able to provide support even further and earlier on.

The Satterberg Foundation Elementary Feeder School Grant (also referred to as Satterberg Literacy Initiative) provides funds to 10 feeder elementary schools to improve student literacy achievement. The 2020-21 school year will be the grant's fourth full year

of implementation. In alignment with the theory of action for the Nesholm Foundation, the Satterberg Feeder Elementary Grant focuses on: developing teachers' knowledge, skills and practices in reading and writing instruction; maintaining high professional standards; applying research tested instructional practice; and developing school leader skills in leading this instructional transformation.

The following are the feeder elementary schools that currently receive grant support:

- Aki Feeder Schools: Dunlap, Emerson, Graham Hill, Martin Luther King, Jr., Hawthorne.
- Denny Feeder Schools: Concord International, Highland Park, Roxhill, Sanislo.
- Mercer Feeder Schools: Rising Star at African American Academy.

During the 2016-17 school year, the Satterberg Foundation provided initial funding to begin supporting the elementary feeder schools. The first full year of implementation of the Satterberg Literacy Initiative was the 2017-18 school year. The 10 elementary schools worked collectively and were grouped in pathways with three full-time literacy coaches and an administrator on special assignment. In the 2018-19 school year, a fourth literacy coach was added, and in the 2020-21 school year, a fifth literacy coach was added to provide more time and support for each Satterberg school.

The Satterberg Literacy Team continued to work closely with all 10 Satterberg leaders, teachers and school communities through the health pandemic of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school year. Coaches continued to support teachers and leaders continued to engage and collaborate to meet the goals of the grant. In addition to literacy coaching and school improvement implementation, the Satterberg Literacy Initiative also provided professional development opportunities for remote instruction and resources for teachers and students. The Satterberg Team leveraged the remote setting to collaborate with teachers and leaders across all 10 schools by providing shared professional development opportunities, monthly learning walks and facilitating professional learning communities. Additionally, Satterberg Literacy Coaches aligned their support across multiple departments through each school's Learning Support Team to meet the goals of Seattle Excellence.

For the 2021-22 school year, the Satterberg Literacy Team will continue to provide literacy coaching and professional development for teachers; help to strengthen alignment of schoolwide literacy systems and structures; and continue the elementary to middle school pathways. This work will be done in alignment with the Satterberg Foundation's emphasis on racial equity and will be overseen by the Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction in Seattle Public Schools and coordinated with the district's third grade literacy goal.

- b. **Alternatives Not approve the grant from the Satterberg Foundation.** This is not recommended due to limited resources available to enhance supports and resources for teachers and leaders around literacy instruction. The district would have to rely solely on funds and professional development available through the Curriculum and Instruction Department and through Title I resources.

- a. Research** Student achievement growth in the first two years of implementation of strategies funded by this grant showed very positive student growth in literacy. Smarter Balanced (SBAC) English Language Arts aggregate data across the 10 elementary schools in the 2018-2019 school year showed positive achievement outcomes. Fifth grade students in the 2018-2019 school year scored proficient or above by eight percentage points more than they did in third grade. Proficiency growth by grade level between the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school year include:
- Fifth grade at Highland Park increased by six percentage points;
 - Fifth grade at Roxhill increased by 10 percentage points;
 - Third and Fifth grades at Graham Hill increased by 11 percentage points;
 - Fourth grade at Hawthorne increased by 13 percentage points;
 - Fifth grade at Rising Star increased by 13 percentage points;
 - Fourth grade at Sanislo increased by 13 percentage points;
 - Fourth grade at Emerson increased 18 percentage percent;
 - Fifth grade at Martin Luther King, Jr. increased by 22 percentage points; and
 - Third grade at Dunlap increased by 26 percentage points.

The health pandemic during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school year have impacted Smarter Balanced assessment data collection. For the 2021-22 school year, the 10 Satterberg Schools will work together to focus and commit to these practices: having a common assessment calendar; utilizing data to inform instruction and learning; using an aligned scope and sequence; participating in grade level literacy professional learning; conducting literacy walkthroughs in our schools; building out the 5th to 6th grade middle school pathways; supporting literacy coaching work; engaging in professional development to grow district practices; and engaging with families.

The Satterberg Team will continue to collaborate closely with departments across Seattle Public Schools to align supports and practices with the district’s strategic plan.

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action will be an acceptance of funds in the amount of \$950,000.

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 district has engaged principals and teachers in Tier 1 and Tier 2 community engagement in developing the grant proposal. Tier 3 community engagement with families and staff is an expectation as the district continues to implement the grant and improve teaching and learning in the area of literacy at the 10 elementary schools. Through family literacy nights and student conferences, families will learn strategies to support the strengthening of their children's reading and writing skills.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

Using the Seattle Public Schools Racial Equity Analysis Tool, the following lessons have been identified as next steps: 1.) Continued partnership among SPS school teams, school communities, and SPS central staff is needed to identify school specific family engagement literacy strategies. 2.) Intentional coordination across stakeholders (City Levy, SPS Initiatives, and Satterberg) is needed to continue to align professional development and instructional practices.

The purpose of this grant is to promote educational equity in our highest poverty, most diverse schools by providing the resources needed (teacher and principal professional development, literacy coaching support, enhanced family engagement, books and materials) to ensure high quality literacy teaching and learning in every classroom and reading and writing success for each and every student. Equitable outcomes desired from this grant are the closing of the opportunity and achievement gaps in our schools, where all students achieve at the highest levels in literacy. The district will be accountable for the results to students and families and will work with Research, Evaluation and Assessment (REA) to monitor and evaluate efforts.

The Satterberg Literacy Initiative is a targeted investment approach that will support SPS's Strategic Plan. The District will continue to partner with Satterberg schools to ensure that Racial Equity Analyses are fully integrated into the Satterberg Literacy Initiative. This will include a deepened focus on the literacy growth of students furthest from educational justice, starting with African American boys, guided by the vision and principles of targeted universalism as outlined in our Seattle Excellence Strategic Plan.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

As a result of these grant funds, students in the 10 identified elementary schools will be given increased opportunities to experience high-quality literacy instruction in every classroom. Students will experience more alignment of high-quality instruction and pedagogy as well as assurances that they will be given access to high-quality, standards-based core curriculum and intervention programs. This will further support the alignment of our Seattle Excellence Strategic Plan, providing focused support for students furthest from educational justice, especially African American boys.

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 Policy No. 6114, Gifts, Grants, Donations, and Fundraising Proceeds, acceptance of grant funds in excess of \$250,000 requires School Board approval.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the Student Services, Curriculum, and Instruction Committee meeting on May 11, 2021. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved the item forward with a recommendation for approval by the full Board.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, the District will move forward with accepting the grant funds, as outlined in the attached Letter of Intent.

13. ATTACHMENTS

- Letter of Intent from the Satterberg Foundation (for reference)



Letter of Intent

Satterberg Foundation

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For questions and more information about this document, please contact the following:

Hong-Nhi Do
Administrator – Satterberg Foundation Elementary Feeder School Grant
Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Department
hndo@seattleschools.org

Letter of Intent for \$950,000 from the Satterberg Foundation for the 2021-22 school year to provide staffing, professional development and materials for 10 elementary "Satterberg Schools" in Seattle Public Schools.

April 27, 2021

Michael Stone
Director of Grants, Fiscal Compliance and Strategic Partnerships
Seattle Public Schools
2445 3rd Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98124

Satterberg *foundation*

Dear Michael,

On behalf of the Board of Directors at the Satterberg Foundation, I am pleased to inform you that a grant has been approved to Seattle Public Schools for \$950,000 for support of the Elementary Feeder School Literacy Initiative (Satterberg Schools) for the 2021-22 school year. Working with Hong-Nhi Do and the many talented educators in the district has been exciting, engaging and educational for our Foundation. We are very grateful for the opportunity to continue this partnership with you in support of this initiative on behalf of the students and families being served and the educators being supported.

Below is the approved budget for the Elementary Feeder School Literacy Initiative during the 2021-22 school year. Seattle Public Schools will not charge indirect or other costs to this grant.

825 Securities Building
1904 Third Avenue
Seattle, Washington
98101

(206) 441-3045 phone
(206) 374-9336 fax
info@satterberg.org

Approved Budget for the Elementary Feeder School Literacy Initiative:

Item	Description	Total
Salaries & Benefits	Administrator on Special Assignment (Literacy), includes COLA	\$200,000
Salaries & Benefits	5 Literacy Coaches, includes COLA	\$750,000
	Total Budget	\$950,000

*Professional development funds for teachers, coaches and school leaders and Miscellaneous (printing, mileages, supplies, etc.) for the 2021-22 school year has been allocated via grant funds from previous years' underspend.

If you wish to discuss this grant, please contact me at (206) 441-3045 or sarahw@satterberg.org.

Sincerely,



Sarah Walczyk
Executive Director