

Date: November 25, 2019

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Ms. Mignon Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Kurt Huffman, Director of School, Business and Community Partnerships

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Recommendation for Donation Approval:
Funding for Enhancement of Multi-Court Playing Surfaces (Mini-Pitches)

SUMMARY:

In support of the recent partnership with the United States Soccer Foundation and the collaborative effort to install small, multi-use playing surfaces (mini-pitches) at John Adams and James K. Polk Elementary Schools, ACPS has been offered an additional donation of \$7,000 per mini-pitch for the enhancement of each surrounding area; a total donation of \$21,000. If the School Board approves this donation, the ACPS Office of Communications will collaborate with the James K. Polk and John Adams school leadership and communities to ascertain their recommendations for how best to utilize the funding. The community recommendations will then be shared with aligned, ACPS departmental teams to proceed with next steps.

The U.S. Soccer Foundation has established a December 1st deadline for ACPS' application submission. Board approval must precede the submission. If the Board chooses to proceed with the donation, ACPS must then convey and confirm the planned (community-supported) uses by January 1st.

In accordance with [School Board Policy KH](#) and [Regulation KH-R](#), donations to ACPS of greater than \$2,500 require School Board approval and must meet the established Standards of Acceptance requirements. Those standards and the appropriate responses are detailed below.

ACPS Donation Standards of Acceptance

1. Have a purpose consistent with the goals of ACPS:

The potential purchase of additional equipment/resources for the school grounds will support the physical health and wellness, learning, emotional and social environment for the ACPS students and community members who utilize the space. This donation aligns with ACPS Strategic Plan Goals 2, 4 and 5. It also aligns with ACPS' educational equity focus area for 2019-2020.

2. Impose no undesirable, unacceptable, or hidden costs in terms of resources to ACPS:

The donation will not impose any undesirable, unacceptable, or hidden costs in terms of

resources to ACPS.

3. Place no unacceptable conditions or restrictions on the school division or its educational or extracurricular programs:

The donation will place no unacceptable conditions or restrictions on the school division or its educational or extracurricular programs. In fact, it will increase the health and wellness resources for our students who will utilize the space.

4. Not assume that the School Board will accept responsibility for continuing the benefit or program supported by the donation if or when the funds are exhausted:

Operations staff is committed to continuing to meet the needs of ACPS students and the school community and will identify and pursue additional funding as needed for the mini-pitch and surrounding play space learning environments.

5. Meet any applicable federal, state and/or local laws and regulations, Board policies, regulations or guidelines associated with its construction or use; and meet any applicable safety standards:

This donation meets all local laws, regulations, Board policies, regulations and guidelines.

Community Engagement

Engagement of both the John Adams Elementary School and the James K. Polk Elementary School communities regarding the use of the donation will occur in January 2020. Both communities will be presented with possible ways to use the donation. The engagement process for each community will involve a face-to-face parent meeting and a parent survey. An electronic survey will also be sent to the Brookville-Seminary Civic Association that borders James K. Polk to be distributed through the civic association president. The results of the engagement process and the community-supported selections for use of the funds will be shared with the Board in late January or early February.

BACKGROUND:

Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) and The US Soccer Foundation (USSF) approached ACPS in December 2018 for an exciting opportunity that the USSF is promoting nationally through the "Safe Places to Play" initiative. The goal of Safe Places to Play is to provide a safe place for children and adults to play soccer through the placement of customized, hard-court surfaces that are well suited to both organized soccer programs and pick-up games. As the demand increases in regards to the usage of ACPS soccer facilities and the number of youth involved in the various programs, these courts will help with providing needed places to play. After approaching ACPS through the Office of School, Business and Community Partnerships, USSF worked with the ACPS Operations Department, as well as the Instructional Specialist for Health/Physical Education and Family Life Education, to work with principals to identify potential sites. Selections were based upon the suitability of the site, the infrastructure in place, and the school leadership's willingness to communicate with its stakeholders about the proposed mini-pitches. The USSF Safe Places to Play Grant, a community-funded capital project as defined by [School Board Policy FB](#) and [Regulation FB-R](#), included the installation of small, ready-to-use soccer courts by August 2019 with USSF partner-funding to be identified during

the process. ACPS signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the sites in February 2019 and a USSF grant agreement in June 2019.

It was determined that James K. Polk and John Adams Elementary Schools provided the most suitable sites for the structures with anticipated high levels of student and community demand. The administration and staff at both sites were involved during the process throughout. However comprehensive community engagement was delayed while technical specifics for the installations were negotiated between USSF and ACPS from March through June 2019.

Aggressive schedules by USSF and its funders required ACPS to move quickly to remain eligible for the grant funding. The mini-pitch multi-use courts were substantially completed for use in August 2019. The estimated value of the grant was \$180,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board approve the donation of \$21,000 for enhancement of the John Adams and James K. Polk multi-use playing surfaces (mini-pitches). \$7,000 will be allocated to John Adams Elementary School and \$14,000 will be allocated to James K. Polk Elementary School.

As described in this memo, the donation meets all Standards of Acceptance requirements. Upon Board approval of the donation, staff will work with school leadership to develop options for use of the enhancement funding. The community engagement process will determine each school's preferred options, which will then be assessed and implemented. Once each school determines its preferred options and an implementation schedule has been established, staff will update the Board via a Board Brief.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Mini-Pitch Enhancement Application Form
2. School Board Policy KH: Public Donations to the Schools
3. KH-R: Regulations for Public Donations to the Schools

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