

BOARD MEMO

Date: 12/6/18

For ACTION ___

For INFORMATION ___

Board Agenda: Yes ___

No ___

FROM: Mr. Kurt Huffman, Director of School, Business and Community Partnerships

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

TO: The Honorable Ramee A. Gentry, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Recommendation for Approval of Community Donation

SUMMARY:

On November 8th, 2018, Alexandria City Public Schools received a financial donation of \$25,000 from Mr. Hubert Hoffman, Chairman and CEO of the Hoffman Town Center, to support the purchase of uniforms for students at William Ramsay Elementary School. This donation will provide all students with two sets of uniforms. It will also provide uniforms for any additional new students who enroll this school year.

In accordance with ACPS Policy KH and Regulation KH-R, any donation over \$2,500 requires School Board approval. The donation 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 uniforms will support the learning environment of William Ramsay Elementary School by keeping students focused on learning, reducing clothing or brand related peer pressure and will enhance school pride, unity and spirit. This donation aligns with ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan Goal 5 (Health and Wellness) 5.1 – Student Physical, Social and Emotional Health.

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

The donation has no identified undesirable, unacceptable, or hidden costs. It will serve approximately 700 students and any new students who attend William Ramsay this school year.

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

Currently, William Ramsay follows the ACPS School Board Uniform Policy – JFD. The William Ramsay Uniform Policy was initiated before the current leadership, but student matriculation, financial challenges and mobility has decreased the engagement and participation of students/families to follow the expectation. Until now, William Ramsay Elementary has not played a role in obtaining uniforms for students, but the school leadership is confident that this donation opportunity will increase the percentage of students wearing uniforms each day. Currently, William Ramsay reports that approximately 40% of students are wearing their

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uniforms. This donation will help support an increase in that percentage by providing all families the opportunity to obtain uniforms without charge. The donation will provide every student with two uniforms and provide the same opportunity for any new student that attends William Ramsay throughout the school year.

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

William Ramsey Elementary is committed to finding any needed additional donations/support in the future through events such as ACT for Alexandria's Spring to Action and through aligned grants and donations. The Office of School, Business and Community Partnerships will also continue to assist the William Ramsay Elementary School Leadership Team to identify and pursue additional community funding opportunities. Any future purchases for this initiative will not result in a budget item request.

This donation aligns perfectly with the recent Loads of Love (Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation) grant award that William Ramsay received. The Loads of Love grant provides clothes cleaning equipment for families/students in need. With its new laundry room, William Ramsay will be able to clean any uniforms that are donated back to the school.

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.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board approve the donation as it meets all standards of acceptance requirements. Upon Board action, William Ramsay Elementary School will move forward with acquiring and distributing the uniforms to students.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Donation Submission Form
2. William Ramsay Fall Uniform Handout to Parents/Guardians
3. Policy JFD: School Uniforms
4. Policy KH: Public Donations to the Schools
5. Policy KH-R: Regulations for Public Donations to the Schools

CONTACT:

Kurt Huffman, 703-619-8307