

Date: 12/5/2019  
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 Cindy Anderson, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Recommendation for Approval of Community Donation

**ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity  
Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement  
Goal 4: Facilities and the Learning Environment  
Goal 5: Health and Wellness

**SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

**FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Specialized Instruction  
Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments  
Mental and Social/Emotional Health  
Physical Education/Fitness

**SUMMARY:**

Throughout 2018-2019, Alexandria City Public Schools received various community member financial donations totaling \$10,000 to support the purchase of educational resources for the Jefferson-Houston sensory classroom space. 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 potential purchase of resources for the sensory room at Jefferson-Houston will support the learning, emotional and social environment for the ACPS students who utilize the space. This donation aligns with ACPS Strategic Plan Goal 1, 4 and 5.

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

The donation has no identified undesirable, unacceptable or hidden costs.

**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, this will increase the educational 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:**

Specialized Instruction staff is committed to continuing to meet the needs of our students and will identify and pursue additional funding as needed for the Jefferson-Houston sensory room.

**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.

**BACKGROUND:**

On February 14<sup>th</sup> 2018, the family of Daniel MacDonald, a former ACPS student who had recently passed away, inquired about making donations to ACPS in his honor. Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald and several other community members then made donation installments during 2018-2019 that now total \$10,000. These donations are intended to help fund the purchase of resources needed for the Jefferson-Houston sensory room. The sensory room was one of the things that Daniel loved best about his time at Jefferson-Houston. He would truly light up in that space and show everyone his smile and his spark.

After consultation with the ACPS Specialized Instruction team, the Office of School, Business and Community Partnerships received a list of potential resources needed from Dr. Erin Stone, Autism/Behavior Service Specialist, and Jefferson-Houston staff members. On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, a list of potential needs was presented to and approved by Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald. The list of potential items includes:

Fiber Optic Carpet	
Busy Bin Classroom Box	
Panel Porter	

Multifinity Explorer Panel



**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends the School Board approve the donation of \$10,000 for the Jefferson-Houston Sensory Room as described in this memo, as it meets all Standards of Acceptance requirements.

**IMPACT:**

The potential purchase of resources for the sensory room at Jefferson-Houston will support the learning, emotional and social environment for the ACPS students who utilize the space.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Policy KH
2. Regulation KH-R

**CONTACT:**

Mr. Kurt Huffman, M.Ed.  
Director of School, Business, and Community Partnerships

[kurt.huffman@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:kurt.huffman@acps.k12.va.us)