



Date: January 6, 2020

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Wanda S. Page, Deputy City Manager
From: Kerry L. Goode, CIO/Director, Technology Solutions
Subject: Participatory Budgeting (PB) Agreement to fund Technology for Durham Public Schools

Executive Summary

Durham Public Schools was selected by residents during the City's Participatory Budgeting (PB) process and approved by the PB Steering Committee for \$404,352 for all three wards. This grant has a goal of replacing and upgrading school projectors in Ward 1, Ward 2, and Ward 3. The school projectors will be installed at the following locations: Ward 1 schools include Northern High School, Lucas Middle School, Carrington Middle School, Brogden Middle School, and Neal Middle School. Ward 2 schools include Hillside High School, Southern High School, Lowes Grove Magnet Middle School and Shepard Middle School. Ward 3 schools include Jordan High School, Githens Middle School, Lakewood Montessori Middle School, and Roger-Herr Middle School. This technology will benefit both teachers and students. Based on this rationale, we seek approval from the City Council to execute a grant agreement for the City to provide funding to Durham Public Schools for the purchase of school projectors.

Recommendation

The Technology Solutions Department recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Durham Public Schools to use funds to purchase school projectors for schools in Ward 1, Ward 2, and Ward 3.

Background

During the PB idea collection phase, residents submitted over 500 project ideas to enhance communities throughout the City of Durham. Volunteers, also known as budget delegates, then vetted and developed these ideas into project proposals. Through the approval of the PB Steering Committee, approximately 40 projects were put forth on a public ballot for voting with over 10,000 residents voting. Winning projects were then announced and approved by the PB Steering Committee last June. Amongst the 18 winning projects, the Technology for Durham Public Schools project was one of the top vote receivers for funding at \$134,784 in each of the three wards totaling \$404,352. Upon the approval by City Council, the city would grant Durham Public Schools \$404,352 to purchase school projectors for Durham Public Schools. The school projectors will be used for the benefit of both students and teachers across all three wards.

Issues and Analysis

In the 2018 State wide Working Conditions Survey, an average of 70.9% of Durham Public School teachers agreed they have “sufficient access to instructional technology, including computers, devices, printers, software and internet access” scoring 9.4% below the statewide total of 80.3%. The middle schools and high schools listed have the highest student’s percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch and diverse demographics. This project will support four Durham public high schools and nine Durham middle schools by providing these schools with projectors, giving teachers the opportunity to have more of the technology they need.

Alternatives

City Council does not approve the grant agreement and provides direction to the City Manager.

Financial Impact

The City of Durham will provide \$404,353 of the \$2.4 million appropriated by City Council for PB projects to Durham Public Schools to purchase school projectors with the goal of replacing and upgrading technology in Ward 1, Ward 2, and Ward 3. In addition, the \$404,353 will be equally disbursed amongst all three wards. A performance measure has been developed to ensure Durham Public Schools meets or exceeds their quarterly goal. If this goal is not met, future funding could be potentially suspended.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

N/A

Attachments

- A. Scope of Description
- B. Budgeted School Projection