MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Recommended Fiscal Year 2019 Supplemental Appropriation for School Safety Safe Schools Grant

Recommendation in Brief

Authorization is requested to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a Fiscal Year 2019 supplemental appropriation of $1,248,757 for a grant that Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has been awarded from the Maryland Center for School Safety.

Background

MCPS is committed to the priorities established by the state of Maryland in its passage of the Safe to Learn Act of 2018 including school safety and evaluations, behavioral threat assessment, and increased access to mental health services for students. MCPS also is focused on promoting the physical, social, and psychological health and well-being of all students to create an environment in which students may develop the academic and behavioral skills necessary to graduate from high school who are college-, career-, and community-ready.

The development of trauma-informed schools supports school safety initiatives. Students who feel safe in school experience less trauma and are less likely to act out; staff members are more attuned to the behavioral and emotional strengths and needs of their students; and students who have experienced trauma are more able to heal and regain a sense of safety and security. In the past five years, MCPS has strived to build a trauma-informed network of supports and services to supplement the existing social-emotional and behavioral programs so that students who have been exposed to adverse childhood experiences and trauma have a safe environment in which to heal and develop. MCPS also recognizes that students who have not been exposed to stressors or who are recovering from trauma need a protective school environment to mitigate future exposure to stress and enhance resiliency.
MCPS is a large suburban school district with more than 163,000 students and 24,000 employees serving 206 schools. Establishing consistent safety training, procedures, and practices districtwide is critical to ensuring the safety and security of students and employees. In 2017, MCPS began a comprehensive review of the protocols, practices, and infrastructure related to the critical imperative of maintaining safe, orderly learning environments for all students. School safety is a multidisciplinary, interoffice effort. Staff in the offices of the Chief Operating Officer and Student and Family Support and Engagement are collaborating with community partners (e.g., Montgomery County Police Department and community mental health organizations) to coordinate communications for the district and community to present one cohesive message on the prioritization of physical and psychological safety districtwide. In addition, MCPS is collaborating with the Maryland Center for School Safety on developing a school safety tool that includes both physical and psychological safety.

Use of Funds

Funds will be used to provide for:

- Salaries and overtime;
- Contractual services;
- Program supplies; and
- Equipment.

Recommended Resolution

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to the priorities established by state of Maryland in its passage of the Safe to Learn Act of 2018 including school safety and evaluations, behavioral threat assessment, and increased access to mental health services for students; and

WHEREAS, Students who feel safe in school experience less trauma and are less likely to act out; staff members are more attuned to the behavioral and emotional strengths and needs of their students; and students who have experienced trauma are more able to heal and regain a sense of safety and security; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools has received notification that it will receive $1,248,757 for a Fiscal Year 2019 Maryland Center for School Safety Safe Schools grant; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, a Fiscal Year 2019 supplemental appropriation of $1,248,757 in the following categories;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02 Mid-Level Administration</td>
<td>$262,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 Instructional Salaries</td>
<td>343,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 Student Personnel Services</td>
<td>505,140</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Operation of Plant</td>
<td>137,637</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,248,757</strong></td>
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and be it further

_Resolved_, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the county executive and County Council; and be it further

_Resolved_, That the county executive be requested to recommend approval of this resolution to the County Council.

JRS:ND:jp