MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Hospitality Foundation

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) high school career and technology education pathways are organized in broad career clusters designed to provide students with multiple career pathways leading to employment in high-demand areas of the economy, postsecondary education, and industry licensures and certifications. To facilitate strong industry partnerships, programs within certain career clusters have associated student Foundations, which are external nonprofit organizations that partner with MCPS to promote and advance the interests of career readiness in MCPS. Existing Foundations include—

- Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation, Inc.
- Montgomery County Students Construction Trades Foundation, Inc.
- Montgomery County Students Information Technology Foundation, Inc.

During the past year, business leaders in the hospitality industry have been actively planning for the formation of an additional Foundation, to support student experiences in hospitality programs across MCPS. The new Hospitality Foundation is anticipated to officially launch on July 1, 2019.

History

The Construction Trades Foundation was founded in 1976 as a licensed student-run design/build company that operates to design and construct the Young American house project. Students utilizing their skills in carpentry; electricity; plumbing; masonry; Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning; and architecture collaborate to build a single-family house on a two-year construction schedule. The completed house is marketed to the public and the revenue funds the next house project. Each completed house enhances the community and serves a permanent source of pride to the students who designed and built it. To date, 41 houses have been completed in Montgomery County.
The Automotive Trades Foundation was founded in 1978 as a licensed student-run car dealership and automotive repair shop that provides educational programs in automotive technology and automotive collision repair. Students learn these skills by working on vehicles that are donated by the public. The renovated vehicles are sold by the students to the community at three annual sales; the revenue funds the repair of additional vehicles while providing students real-world hands-on skills training.

The Information Technology Foundation (ITF) was founded in 2004 as a student-run computer repair business. Students gain hands-on experience in the field of computer configuration, maintenance, repair, and networking by training on donated computers. ITF students refurbish the computers and sell them to the community at affordable prices. The revenue earned funds the students’ certification exams, thus enhancing their employability.

Enhanced Learning Opportunities

The Foundations programs uniquely provide students with project-based learning and entrepreneurial experiences that parallel the real world of work while teaching them industry skills that prepare them for rewarding careers. The student-run businesses spark students’ imagination, teach teamwork, and offer a sense of pride at the completion of the project, whether it be a renovated computer system, a repaired automobile, or a new house. Learning opportunities also include the advantage of attaining industry certifications to enhance employability in addition to earning college credits through program completion. Various postsecondary scholarships also are available through the Foundations programs.

Through an MCPS Foundations supervisor, MCPS provides infrastructure that facilitates strong business engagement to supplement classroom experiences with authentic career experiences outside the classroom. The MCPS Foundations Office serves as the liaison between MCPS and local business leaders within each industry to advance career education through entrepreneurial experiences, real-world experiences, and state-of-the-art technology.

Employer Engagement

The educational model supported by the industry-led Foundations structure is an effective model for engaging and leveraging resources of the business community. Local business partners serve on each Foundation’s Board of Directors to provide operational oversight and to function as program advisors to guide curriculum alignment to industry trends and workforce needs. Equally important, these business leaders also volunteer their time to interact with students in a variety of ways including job fairs, mock interviews, field trips, job shadowing, student competitions, internships, seminars, presentations, car shows, mentoring, and more. The relationships between industry leaders and students are critical toward students understanding the importance of shared work, goal setting, and accountability. Direct employer engagement provides insights into the world of work and employment contacts for future careers.
Emergence of the New Hospitality Foundation

During the past year, a group of business leaders in the hospitality and restaurant industry have dedicated their time to exploring the possibility of establishing a Hospitality Foundation to enhance student experiences in related programs of study currently housed within 10 MCPS high schools, including Thomas Edison High School of Technology. Montgomery County is home to the headquarters of several leading global companies, as well as being known as a hub of entrepreneurship and innovation in the hospitality industry. MCPS is fortunate to have a group of local industry leaders planning for the establishment of a new Hospitality Foundation as of July 1, 2019. The executive planning committee, in collaboration with MCPS, is working to establish bylaws, a Board of Directors, nonprofit status, and other entrepreneurial planning to support hospitality and restaurant management programs in MCPS. Meanwhile, MCPS staff will be working with leaders across all of the student Foundations to establish an umbrella Memorandum of Understanding to align the work of each of the student Foundations.

The following resolution is included for your consideration.

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Board of Education Policy IGK, Career and Technology Education, emphasizes the importance of strong industry partnerships to support career readiness; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools relies on strong industry partnerships to enhance career readiness programs and provide career exposures, exploration, and experiences for students; and

WHEREAS, Profound economic and technological changes in our society are reflected in the structure and nature of work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technology Education programs of study in Montgomery County Public Schools are aligned with domestic and international business and industry partners’ practices to ensure that students are equipped with the communication, global awareness, time management, team building, and leadership skills required for lifelong career success; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technology Education programs in Montgomery County Public Schools are continually providing students with opportunities to gain valuable hands-on experience through job shadowing, internships, and site-based work experiences; and

WHEREAS, The ever-increasing cooperative business partnerships and program advisory committees of career and technology educators and business/industry professionals support and enhance the preparation of our graduates for career fields forecast to experience substantial and rapid growth in the next decade; and
WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation Inc.,
the Montgomery County Students Construction Trades Foundation Inc., and the Montgomery
County Students Information Technology Foundation Inc., have provided effective models
and strong experiences for students for several decades; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education express its appreciation to the industry leaders who support
the Student Foundations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education support the establishment of a Hospitality Foundation
to enrich career readiness experiences for students in the hospitality and restaurant management
industry.

JRS:MVN:NTH:jpm