

# LINCOLN SCHOOL FOUNDATION

*advancing education through innovation since 1988*

May 13, 2021

Dear Lincoln School Committee Members:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Lincoln School Foundation (LSF), it is our pleasure to present to you the grants we approved during the 2020-2021 academic year. This year, we adapted our grant-making process to allow more flexibility with respect to when and how educators apply for grants. To this end, in consultation with Lincoln Public Schools principals, we decided to forego a formal LSF grant cycle in spring 2021 and instead continue rolling applications and approvals as we do for off-cycle grants. In addition, given the many demands on teachers this year and the constraints due to the pandemic, the grants awarded in May 2020 were extended through the 2021-22 school year.

During the current (2020-21) school year, the LSF board of trustees voted to award three off-cycle grants, totaling \$10,159. These grants align with our mission to inspire and fund innovation that fosters critical thinking, collaboration, and authentic learning experiences for every student in the Lincoln Public Schools. The grant initiatives we funded this year have supported districtwide anti-racism, inclusion, diversity, and equity (AIDE) work and provided resources for an afterschool speech and debate club at Brooks. Grants that we extended through next year will allow our teachers to participate in professional development related to social emotional and behavioral supports and will provide resources to support outdoor play and environmental stewardship among students. We are excited to be able to support all of these thoughtful initiatives.

If you have any questions about the grants awarded, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Cathie Bitter and Anne Wang  
Co-Chairs, Lincoln School Foundation  
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## Lincoln School Foundation Grant Awards 2020-2022

### Out-of-Cycle Grants Awarded SY 2020-2021

	Grant	Applicant	School(s)	Awarded
1	Lincoln Public Schools Partnership with the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI)	Marika Hamilton and Jess Rose	LPS	\$7500
2	Speech and Debate Team	Jenny Nam	Brooks	\$1000
3	Mentor Texts for HPS Connections and Social Studies Curriculum	Liz Eisenman	Hanscom Primary	\$1659
			<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$10,159

### In-Cycle Grants Awarded May 2020, Postponed to SY 2021-2022

	Grant	Applicant	School(s)	Awarded
1	Videos for Volunteers	Sarah Collmer	Smith	\$1,000
2	Collaborative and Proactive Solutions Proficiency Training	Bethany Dionne	Smith and Brooks	\$9,000
3	Green Team <sup>1</sup>	Siobhan Rooney, Carolyn Weaver	Smith	\$3,000
4	Big Blue Blocks <sup>2</sup>	Shelley Moeller, Sarah Collmer	Smith	\$6,221
			<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$19,221

<sup>1</sup> The application also included a composting pilot. We awarded only the Green Team and planning portions of the grant.

<sup>2</sup> The application also included "Recess Reboot" training from Playworks. We awarded only the Big Blue Blocks portion of the grant.

## Summaries of Out of Cycle Grants Awarded SY 2020-2021

### **Lincoln Public Schools Partnership with the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI). (LPS)**

\$7500, Jess Rose and Marika Hamilton

Combined with support from the METCO Coordinating Committee and Lincoln School PTO, this grant supports LPS's partnership with the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) focused on anti-racism, inclusion, diversity, and equity (AIDE) districtwide. Activities within this partnership include focus groups with district stakeholders, professional development, formation of an LPS AIDE Advisory Group, and an equity audit.

### **Speech and Debate Team (Brooks 6th-8th Grade)**

\$1000, Jenny Nam, 6th Grade Teacher, in collaboration with Rhea Karty and Joanna Schwarz (L-S Seniors)

This grant supports the establishment of a Brooks middle school speech and debate team. The club is facilitated by two L-S seniors, with the support and guidance of Ms. Nam. The goals for this project are to provide students a cross-graded opportunity; to give students an introduction to a more formal debate program; and to allow Brooks to feed students to Lincoln-Sudbury more ready to participate in a formal debate club. The ideal outcome is to have a solid cohort of students participate and be able to continue into the following school year having been taught the basics well. The club allows students across the 6-8 grade span to do something together and also supports student leadership. The club takes place after school weekly and culminates with students participating in a debate and sharing speeches that they wrote during the school year.

### **Mentor Texts for HPS Connections and Social Studies Curriculum (HPS 3rd Grade)**

\$1659.08, Liz Eisenman, 3rd Grade Teacher, in collaboration with Taylor Reynolds, Sofia Neri, Carolyn Baughan, Stephanie Visone, Elaine Herzog

The Lincoln Public Schools has been involved in professional development about AIDE (antiracism, inclusion, diversity and equity). The third grade team at HPS was inspired and made a commitment to develop lessons around AIDE and tied this work to their professional learning goals. This grant supports the purchase of updated children's picture books that reflect the cultures, families, and identities of their classrooms. The books will be used to develop lesson plans to supplement and meet MA Social Studies standards and Connections Block for the third graders.

## **In-Cycle Grants Awarded May 2020, Postponed to SY 2021-2022**

### **Videos for Volunteers (Smith)**

\$1000, Sarah Collmer, Principal

This grant is to create instructional videos for classroom volunteers on how to support students academically in the classroom. This complements the initiative to include more parent volunteers in the school. Providing parents with supports to engage academically with students will encourage more parents to volunteer in their children's classrooms and support students' academic proficiency.

### **Collaborative and Proactive Solutions Proficiency Training (Smith and Brooks)**

\$9,000, Bethany Dionne, School Psychologist

Given reported increased need for consistent support around social emotional and behavioral challenges for students, this grant funds a training for a core group of 8-10 teachers. "Collaborative and Proactive Solutions" (CPS) is an empirically supported, evidence based, non-punitive, non-adversarial, trauma-informed model of care. The model focuses on identifying the skills a child is lacking and the expectations he or she is having difficulty meeting and helping kids and caregivers solve those problems rather than trying to modify kids' behavior through application of rewards and punishments.

The method of the training is a 15-week online class in which the trainers work with a core group of 8-10 teachers from Smith and Brooks, and the teachers complete assignments, including practicing the approach and learning over time. Their work with students impacts those students and serves as a model for other teachers. They are expected to become "proficient in utilizing a model to support students who are struggling with emotional and behavioral challenges. The training will lead to staff being able to successfully utilize strategies to decrease conflict, enhance relationships between staff and students, improve communication between staff and students, and help both staff and students learn and more effectively display skills including empathy, appreciating how one's behavior is affecting others, resolving disagreements in ways that do not involve conflict, taking another's perspective, and honesty."

### **Green Team (Smith)**

\$3,000, Carolyn Weaver, Educational Assistant, in collaboration with Siobhan Rooney

This grant is to fund the starting of an afterschool Green Team club and planning for a composting pilot. The students on the Green Team will participate in composting activities that could include worm composting, researching and implementing alternatives for composting, and field trips to Codman Farm or Black Earth Composting to learn about and get ideas from their composting and sustainability practices. Once composting piloting is underway, the Green Team members will weigh and chart the amount of food waste diverted in the cafeteria so that students can see how their actions make a difference in caring for our environment. Teachers

will also have an opportunity to use the classroom composting as a way to teach about ecosystems and sustainability.

**Note:** The application also included a composting pilot for an additional \$2327.

### **Big Blue Blocks (Smith)**

\$6,221 for Big Blue Blocks, Shelley Moeller, Social Worker, in collaboration with Sarah Collmer, Principal

This grant aims to give students a greater number of options for play at recess. The Big Blue Blocks from Imagination Playground include cubes, bricks, cogs, curves, cylinders, pieces with holes, and shapes that fit together. They can provide a new mode of open-ended loose parts play and creativity for students and can be easily moved for use when students are in modular classrooms and back to Smith when the school building project is complete.

**Note:** The application also included “Recess Reboot” training from Playworks for an additional \$11,500.