

## Attachment 2

### Year One: Approved Initiatives for Funding

#### Green Campus Initiatives at North and South

The goal at both high schools is to use the outdoor space as an extension of their classrooms. Funding would allow both schools to create exciting, innovative outdoor spaces that complement the education provided within their walls.

➤ **Green Trail Project**

*The Green Trail at Newton South High School will create a cohesive link between the wetlands project, South's organic garden, the greenhouse, and the aquariums representing the Charles River and Boston Harbor. Additionally, South will institute a new native forest project and connection to the Kennard Park and conservation area off of Dudley Road. The new forest project behind Wheeler House will be utilized as an outdoor laboratory for native plant and bird identification and research.*

➤ **Newton North Green Campus Project**

*The goal is to create a thriving outdoor campus, which serves as a learning lab that engages and inspires Newton students, teachers, and the community. Guidelines and ground rules will be developed for a design competition for the quadrangle of greenable space between the art room and the theater on the Walnut Street side of the building. This area has been set aside for a contemplative memorial space, a vertical vegetable garden, a greenhouse, and 2-3 outdoor classrooms. The garden will have a pond, if possible, and will be planted with species native to Newton.*

#### Achievement Gap Initiative

The Newton Public Schools have been working diligently in narrowing the achievement gap as it exists in our schools. At the high school level, both schools have demonstrated success with addressing these gaps as fewer students are failing both their classes and MCAS. The next level of work is to encourage minority and students from low income families to succeed in our upper level courses. There are several initiatives to support this work;

**Dover Legacy Scholars (Newton North)**

*The Dover Legacy Scholars (DLS) program is a Black and Latino scholars program focused on supporting students to challenge themselves academically. This program supports the research that argues that minority students benefit from working with a cohort of students. Modeled on Brookline High School's Black Scholars Program, DLS provides students with a faculty mentor, a weekly check-in as part of homeroom, and an enrichment activity each term.*

**Transitioning Together (Newton North)**

*Transitioning Together (T-squared) is a program designed to support first generation college students through the post-secondary planning process. The program matches first generation students and their families with community mentors, all of whom have previously navigated the post-secondary planning process. The program includes monthly meetings focused on the application process, financial aid, choosing a college, visiting colleges, writing the college essay.*

**AP History Summer Academy (Newton South)**

*The AP US Scholars program seeks to increase the number of African American, Latino and low-income students in United States History AP courses at Newton South. In order to prepare students for the AP course, South offers a summer class taught by an AP teacher that focuses on honing reading, writing, note-taking and analytical thinking skills. During the school year, the students meet as a group weekly with a former AP US History teacher who coaches them on content, reading and writing.*

#### Middle School Math Summer Institute

This Institute will enable teachers to provide new and exciting mathematical experiences for their students. They will experience the beauty and power of mathematics as they develop their mathematical practice, and collaborate to develop full lessons and units based on activities developed to reveal important mathematical ideas. The work will build on the curriculum that the teachers have adapted over the past two years to meet the Common Core State Standards.

**Math Enrichment (Middle Schools)**

This new summer program prepares students at the middle school level for success in accelerated math. This pilot program is modeled after a successful program in Brookline.

**Middle School Engineering and Sustainable Energy Generation: Wind Turbines and Blade Design**

The Engineering teachers at all four middle schools will design a new, innovative curriculum with a focus on energy generation through improving blade design. Students will design their blade using a wind turbine and measure the energy generation and use the data to determine the best design within the project cost and material constraints.

**Summer Writing Institute K-5**

Improving writing instruction is a major priority at the elementary schools in Newton. A number of new units are being introduced and teachers are working hard to implement them successfully. NPS will hold a summer writing institute designed for teachers to immerse themselves in writing. Participants will read and explore writing curriculum, analyze the trajectory of lessons and the structure and components of individual lessons, engage in critical discussions and plan for the coming school year.

**Responsive Classroom Training**

Over the past several summers, a good number of Newton elementary teachers have been trained in the Responsive Classroom approach which is a nationally used research-and evidence-based way of teaching that improves students' social and academic skills and raises teachers' instructional quality. Based on the success of the training, the system is not able to accommodate the demand for additional training. Funding will provide additional numbers of teachers to participate in a summer professional development.