



City Council Report

Date: April 15, 2019
To: City Council
Through: Christopher J. Brady, City Manager
From: Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager, Government Relations
Subject: Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Mesa Public Schools Westwood High School to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in the amount of \$60,000 to provide Academic and Career Counseling and approving the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-through grant.

Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Mesa Public Schools (MPS) Westwood High School's application to Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$60,000 in funding to provide Academic and Career Counseling. A Council Resolution supports this effort to secure a grant and commits the city to receive it on behalf of the non-profit and pass it through in its entirety to them if awarded.

As this program serves the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

Background

Mesa Public Schools is the largest K-12 district in Arizona, with more than 63,000 students. Westwood High School is located at 945 West Rio Salado Parkway in Mesa and serves a diverse population of students, 74% of whom qualify for free or reduced lunch programs.

MPS Academic and Career Counseling program seeks to identify students who are likely to experience difficulty with the transition, and provide these students help. Struggling students must see a "value" for the path they are on in high school. Their ability to understand the end goal can be a motivational vehicle to propel students to success. Having access to resources that prepare them to succeed can propel them on to success in high school and in life. The services in this proposal will bridge the gap by providing academic intervention and career counseling. Awarded funding will provide academic and career coaching/tutoring to approximately 300 Westwood High School 9th grade students residing in the city of Mesa.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Mesa Public Schools to file their application by May 1, 2019 and be considered for funding from Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned over \$1 billion to Arizona communities since its passage in 2002 from four surrounding tribal governments.

Alternatives

The only alternative to adopting this resolution would be to not adopt. Such an action would deny Mesa sponsorship for this request and require Mesa Public Schools to seek an alternate local government for access to this funding source.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact on the City of Mesa, should this grant be awarded for Mesa Public Schools, will be negligible except overhead expenses in accounting to accept and reissue the grant check. The City does not administer the grant and signs an MOU or IGA with each tribe to limit our liability to only the pass-through transaction.