February 10, 2015

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Approval of Agreement between NUSD (Novato Unified School District) and MCFL (Marin County Free Library) for a School Community Library partnership

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Approve agreement between NUSD (Novato Unified School District) and MCFL (Marin County Free Library) for a School Community Library partnership

SUMMARY: On February 3, 2015 it is expected the NUSD will approve the partnership agreement for a School Community Library, on C Street in Hamilton Field, Novato. This agreement has been developed in active collaboration between NUSD and MCFL. It was reviewed by leasing and county counsel and it aligns directly with the Library’s strategic plan.

The School Community Library @ Hamilton will first and foremost double the current space of the South Novato Library from 3,000 square feet to 6,000 square feet. It is an excellent example of government agencies working collaboratively for a common community purpose. The proposed location will create a learning center with two additional buildings also totaling 6,000 square feet operated by NUSD that will offer educational and community programs to the Novato community. This provides 12,000 square feet of new space dedicated to formal education and lifelong learning for the community.

The agreement rests on the foundation of NUSD’s desire to promote the development of 21st Century skills in students by entering into a collaborative arrangement where the Library, in partnership with the District, operates a community library facility to provide programs and services to support the public education program. It is the intention that NUSD and MCFL will develop and plan a longer-term arrangement where a permanent library facility is constructed on the Site and/or on the adjacent parcel. This plan makes the library an integral part of the future community education center.

In addition to supporting NUSD’s educational goals the partnership specifically supports MCFL strategic plan goals, the BOS 4th E (Education) Initiative and efforts to improve equity in Marin County. Positive outcomes for each of the goals in the MCFL strategic plan include:
For Goal 1- Support family literacy and youth development- by being the preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together. The new location of the School Community Library on "C" Street is within walking distance from the Novato Elementary School, the North Bay Children’s Center and the Novato Charter School.

For Goal 2- Support youth in our community with opportunities for self-discovery and expression. This partnership provides an incredible opportunity to expand and improve educational opportunities for youth in Novato. In addition to the library facility having for the first time a dedicated youth area, youth will have access to a model classroom, media center and a Makerspace. These facilities will be equipped to support programs that develop skills in communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

The model classroom will support teaching and learning so that students and teachers may utilize the room for virtual fieldtrips, for collaboration with other students world-wide, virtual internships, teacher trainings, and interaction with experts, authors, and career coaches. This classroom will be open in the late afternoons and evenings for students and families that do not have access to technology on a regular basis.

The Makerspace will be a space in which students, teachers, families, and the community may build projects designed as part of class work, community classes, afterschool activities, and summertime makerspace camps.

For Goal 3- Be a positive environment for mobile and digital literacy by improving access to resources, improved connectivity and availability. The new School Community Library will have better connectivity, dedicated youth technology (PC’s designated for youth use) and use the significant resources from MCFL to promote digital and information literacy for all ages.

This partnership is an innovative approach to reach common goals and could create a model for new ways for school districts, local government and public library systems to aggregate resources to improve educational outcomes and provide better equity to educational resources for all members of the community.

FISCAL/STAFFING IMPACT: On November 25, 2014 MCFL dedicated $1,485,000 to fund this partnership opportunity for a School Community Library facility for South Novato. By acquiring this space through the NUSD partnership ongoing lease payments will be dramatically reduced for MCFL. This move also allows for the technical services aspect of MCFL to move to Los Gamos, doubling their space and providing better support services for all library branches and all libraries in Marin through our membership in MARINet.

REVIEWED BY:  

| Department of Finance |  |
| County Counsel | X |
| Human Resources |  |

N/A
Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Jones
Director of County Library Services

SJ:elg

Attach:
Agreement between NUSD (Novato Unified School District) and MCFL (Marin County Free Library) for a School Community Library partnership

cc: Sheila Lichtblau, Deputy County Counsel
Janell Hampton, Administrative Analyst III
Barbara Schoen, President, Library Commission

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