
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion _____

Future Action _____

Action ____X____

Item: Classroom Library Grant Purchase

Submitted by: James Hissong

Date: 07/14/2025

Recommended by: Dr. Ron Gorman

Board Meeting Date: 07/21/2025

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Kent ISD School Board approve the purchase of classroom library books, a purchase amount not to exceed \$853,242 through Barnes & Noble. These materials will be used to enhance literacy development in Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) preschool classrooms and elementary special education classrooms across Kent ISD.

BACKGROUND:

This purchase is fully funded through a Section 35j grant award Kent ISD received from the Michigan Department of Education. The grant is specifically intended to expand access to high-quality and developmentally appropriate texts for early learners. There is no impact to the Kent ISD general fund.

To ensure both cost-efficiency and compliance with procurement standards, Kent ISD will utilize the OMNIA Partners Cooperative Purchasing Program to make this purchase. Through this consortium, we are able to secure a 35% discount from Barnes & Noble, our selected vendor. Leveraging this purchasing mechanism allows us to maximize the impact of the grant funds and ensure equitable access to robust classroom libraries across Kent ISD classrooms.

The books included in this purchase comprise a curated collection of high-quality, developmentally appropriate titles. The collection emphasizes early literacy development, cultural responsiveness, and social-emotional learning, ensuring that students have access to texts that support their growth as readers and individuals. The selected books represent a wide range of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and bilingual texts. They feature storylines that reflect a variety of cultures, abilities, and promote key themes such as empathy, resilience, and belonging. The books are aligned to the foundational literacy skills and Michigan's early learning standards and literacy essentials.

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