



City of Missoula, Montana
Item to be Referred to City Council Committee

Committee: Parks and Conservation

Item: Missoula County Public Schools-City Interlocal for the Lowell School - Westside Park Neighborhood Center

Date: February 2, 2021

Sponsor(s): Donna Gaukler

Prepared by: Donna Gaukler

Ward(s) Affected:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Action Required:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Recommended Motion(s):

I move the City Council: Approve and Authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and Missoula County Public Schools for use of Lowell Elementary School as a Neighborhood Community Center

Timeline:

Referral to committee:	February 8, 2021
Committee discussion:	February 10, 2021
Council action (or sets hearing):	February 22, 2021
Public Hearing:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Deadline:	Click or tap here to enter text.

Background and Alternatives Explored:

Since fall of 2019 Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) through Lowell Elementary and the City of Missoula through Parks and Recreation (MP&R) have been working closely with numerous partners to create a community based school and neighborhood community center.

A school/neighborhood center is a community hub that supports student success while at the same time investing in the overall health and vitality of the neighborhood. The City and its partners would work to develop programming including:

- Afterschool activities.
- Extended learning opportunities for all ages.
- Family and community engagement.
- A variety of social services.

A community based school focuses on the student, family, school staff, neighborhood, and the community to provide full wrap around services thereby providing the greatest opportunity for success of the student, while at the same time investing in the overall health and vitality of the Neighborhood.

Given the academic, health, and economic challenges, plus the anticipated growth, of the area, the Neighborhood Center is a wonderful opportunity for the City and MCPS to work together, with many partners to provide robust programming and services that are fully accessible.

The provided (or attached) Agreement was approved by the MCPS Board of Trustees on January 26, 2021. The Interlocal Agreement, with Exhibit A, outlines the many partners, important reasons and goals of the initiative.

The Interlocal Agreement is a tool or mechanism provided local governments under Title 7, Chapter 11, Part 1, M.C.A. (the "Interlocal Cooperation Act"), which states "to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with each other on a basis of mutual advantage and thereby to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the needs and development of local communities".

While community based schools-neighborhood community centers are unique to Missoula, the concept is not new to much of the US and even other countries. (see attached article) When governments, non-profits, and citizens pool their resources and skills we find fresh, innovative, and sustainable paths toward successful use of shared resources. Investing in equity successfully supports the overall vitality and success of our entire community solving challenges often too large for any one person or entity.

Financial Implications:

The Missoula City Council approved a Budget Enhancement called Community Based Programs in the amount of \$91,652 with the FY21 budget. The MT COVID Relief Child Care fund has been applied to providing unique services during the pandemic and during hybrid school weeks. These extended out of school support programs, with tutoring, required significant resources and the funding source is no longer available.

Links to external websites: