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Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation Gives School District Nearly \$2.5 Million

By Lookout Staff

September 1, 2017 -- The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation has granted \$2.48 million to the local School District to support a variety of programs during the 2017-2018 school year, Foundation officials announced Thursday.

The money -- which came from 3,094 donors -- will support arts programs, instructional assistants and stretch grants to the district's 16 schools, officials said.

"Each dollar was contributed by a parent, business or other member of our community who believes in the promise of public education and wants to ensure that every child in our district has access to outstanding programs throughout their education," said David Vukadinovich, president of the Ed Foundation board.



Education Foundation representatives, School Board members pose with donation check (Courtesy Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation)

Representatives from the Foundation presented a check, along with the results of the fundraising campaign, to the School Board during its meeting Wednesday.

"The grant from the Ed Foundation allows us to provide crucial programs for students, above and beyond what is provided by state and local TK-12 education funding," said School Board president Laurie Lieberman.

"It is not the norm to have the tremendous arts programs, science programs and additional staff that our students benefit from every day," Lieberman said. "We are fortunate to be part of a community so dedicated to education."

Of the total donated, \$2,010,102 comes from donations to the Foundation during its 2016-2017 annual campaign, Foundation officials said.

That money will fund "P.S. ARTS, the district-contracted elementary arts program; instructional assistants in classrooms; ballroom dance for fifth graders and a stretch grant for each school," officials said.

The site council at each school decides how to use the stretch grant, with most using the funds for STEM, arts or student health and wellbeing programs, Foundation officials said.

The balance of the grant -- \$471,400 -- comes from the Education Foundation's endowments and scholarship programs, officials said.

The funds help purchase recorders for all third graders, music lessons and instruments for qualifying students and music teaching assistants at Title I schools.

Funds also are used for middle and high school drama programs, middle school dance programs, library support, secondary visual arts supplies and scholarships, officials said.