

16. Subgrant Contract with The Nature Conservancy for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant for Benjamin B. Comegys School, Stephen Girard School, Avery D. Harrington School, and Weir S. Mitchell School for Greening, Nature-Based Learning, and Stormwater Management

## **Action Item - 16**

**Board of Education Meeting Date:** 4/24/2025

**Title:** Subgrant Contract with The Nature Conservancy for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant for Benjamin B. Comegys School, Stephen Girard School, Avery D. Harrington School, and Weir S. Mitchell School for Greening, Nature-Based Learning, and Stormwater Management

### **Action Under Consideration**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize the School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to accept a subgrant and enter into a Subgrant Agreement as follows:

**Subgrant from:** The Nature Conservancy

**Purpose:** Funding to construct greening, nature-based site improvement, and stormwater management improvements at Benjamin B. Comegys School, Stephen Girard School, Avery D. Harrington School, and Weir S. Mitchell School

**Subgrant Start Date:** 5/1/2025

**Subgrant End Date:** 12/31/2027

**Subgrant amount up to** \$759,990

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize the School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, upon receipt of this Subgrant, to enter into a Subgrant Agreement as follows:

**Subgrant Agreement with:** The Nature Conservancy

**Subgrant Agreement Start Date:** 5/1//2025

**Subgrant Agreement End Date:** 12/31/2027

**Location(s):** Benjamin B. Comegys School, Stephen Girard Elementary School, Avery D. Harrington School, Weir S. Mitchell School

### **Description:**

#### **Why is this contract needed?**

The District's GreenFutures sustainability plan emphasizes the need for students to access outdoor learning environments that integrate large-scale greening, green stormwater infrastructure, and nature-based learning. The Nature Conservancy worked

with the District to develop a grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for greening and nature-based site improvements for the Benjamin B. Comegys School (“Comegys”), the Stephen Girard School (“Girard”), the Avery D. Harrington School (“Harrington”), and the Weir S. Mitchell School (“Mitchell”). This funding supports the District’s goal of creating green spaces at all schools. To access the subgrant funds, the District will execute and perform a Subgrant Agreement with The Nature Conservancy for \$759,990. Success will be evaluated based on the enhancement of stormwater management at Comegys, Girard, Harrington, and Mitchell, which will generate stormwater fee credits and lower water utility costs. Additionally, these projects separately will be receiving supporting funds from grants awarded to the District from the Philadelphia Water Department.

**How is this work connected to the District's plan to achieve Goals & Guardrails?**

Guardrail 1: Welcoming and Supportive Schools- Every school will be a safe, welcoming, and healthy place where our students, staff, and community want to learn each day.

**How will the success of this contract be measured?**

The success of these subgrant agreements will be measured by the timely construction of the improvements within the contract time frame.

**Office Originating Request:**

Operations - Capital Programs

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