



**COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Item No. 8j

ACTION ITEM

Date of Meeting May 14,2024

DATE : May 14, 2024

TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

FROM: Bookda Gheisar, Sr Director, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

SUBJECT: **Interlocal Agreement with Highline Public Schools, Maritime High School**

Amount of this request: \$500,000

Total requested project cost: \$500,000

ACTION REQUESTED

Request Commission authorization for the Executive Director to sign an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Highline Public Schools, Maritime High School, in the form attached, to support the work of instructional design plans demonstrating a maritime-focused curriculum for the next two years at \$250,000 per year. The ILA will facilitate the initial payment of \$250,000 Port of Seattle funds to Highline Public Schools in 2024, as previously authorized in the 2024 budget, and a second payment of \$250,000 in 2025, for a total of \$500,00 over two years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maritime High School (“MHS”) launched in the Fall of 2021. The school is in South King County and operated by the Highline Public Schools District (“HSD”). MHS includes curricula focused on Port-related industries, including maritime and green jobs; and it is designed to expose students to the educational and employment opportunities provided by the region’s robust maritime industry, and to develop and sustain a workforce that mirrors the diversity of the residents of South King County. HSD provides partnership and support for King County students through the efforts of the MHS and provides project-based learning opportunities with an emphasis on port-related industries. Per the ILA, funds from the Port will support the work of instructional design plans demonstrating a maritime-focused curriculum. The HSD will provide the following:

- Demographics of students outreached and in program (all reports disaggregated by race, gender, zip code).
- Lessons learned and student testimonials.
- Any other tangible benefits of the program.
- Instructional plans demonstrating maritime-focused curriculum.

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JUSTIFICATION

The Executive Director included \$250,000 in the Commission authorized 2024 budget to support the development and implementation of high school credit earning, and project-based learning opportunities to be administered by HSD.

The school is in South King County and operated by HSD and includes curricula focused on port-related industries, including maritime and green jobs. The allocated funding aligns with the Port’s Workforce Development Policy Directive, particularly the youth career connected learning priorities, the Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment Policy Directive, and the Workforce Development Strategic Plan.

Diversity in Contracting

No goal has been established as this is an interlocal agreement for a specific school.

DETAILS

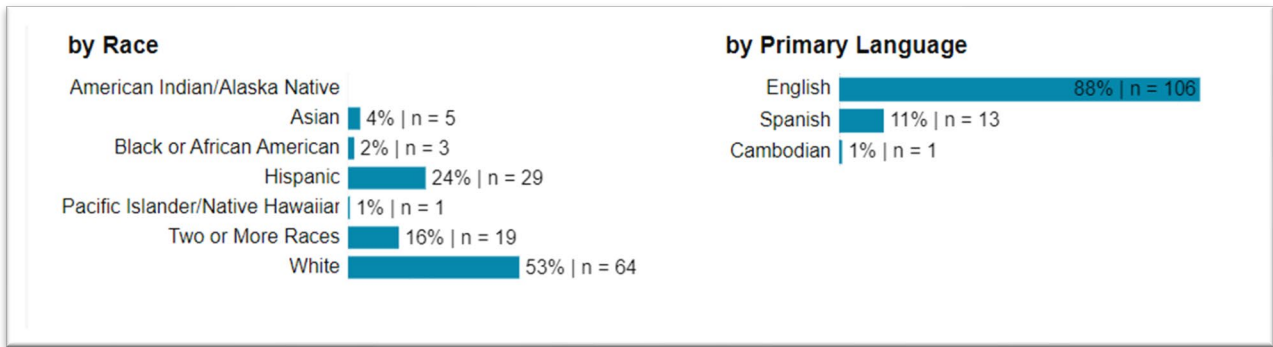
In September 2019, the Port of Seattle convened a Maritime Secondary Education Summit to discuss how to design educational programs that will foster student interest and passion for the maritime industry and ocean sciences, close workforce skill gaps, and support environmental sustainability.

In early 2020, Seattle Public Schools, Highline Public Schools, Federal Way Public Schools, and Tukwila School District leaders convened to explore and identify the district that would serve as the leading educational entity for this project, with a clear and indisputable choice in Highline Public Schools.

In 2021, HSD took the next step in this project by establishing a taskforce of Highline staff to move the project forward, guided by a design team of industry partners and a broader advisory team to inform the work. HSD also assembled an Advisory Board representing industry, education, community, and government stakeholders to provide ongoing project advisement. The school is temporarily located at the Olympic Interim site, 615 S. 200th St., Des Moines, WA 98198. The School District has also identified the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC) to serve as a community engagement liaison and provide invaluable insight and perspective into the diverse Duwamish Valley communities, contracted with Northwest Maritime Center (NWMC) to provide direction and guidance related to maritime education and critical fundraising support, and received unanimous approval from the Washington State Board of Education for a traditional credit waiver necessary to support a true project-based learning experience.

For the 2023-2024 school year, Maritime High School Enrolled 121 students.

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The school is designed to:

- Expose students to the educational and employment opportunities provided by the region’s robust maritime industry.
- Develop and sustain a workforce that mirrors the diversity of the residents of South King County.
- Explore the region’s extensive maritime history.
- Include a focus on environmental stewardship, with a recognition that clean waterways, such as the Duwamish River, are a necessary element of the maritime and green jobs industries.
- Build on the HSD’s existing commitment to the industry and an expertise with the subject matter, as evidenced by the Marine Science Technology program at the Puget Sound Skills Center.
- Build on the Port’s commitment to the Duwamish Valley through community collaboration and targeted outreach.
- Be open to students who reside within the HSD and students who live within the Puget Sound region, including communities adjacent to the Duwamish River, who are interested in the maritime and green jobs industries.

The HSD shall provide partnership and support for King County students through the efforts of the MHS and to provide project-based learning opportunities with an emphasis on port-related industries.

Scope of Work

Instructional Design

Extensive work will take place to implement and strengthen the overall academic program for Maritime High School. This work will encompass addressing all components necessary to graduate from high school, as well as incorporating maritime content throughout. The instructional design work will focus on a series of integrated projects to strengthen the current 9th and 10th grade curriculum and developing three focus areas for the 11th and 12th grade program that allows students to focus on and earn college credit and credentials in vessel operations, marine construction, and marine science. This work will include:

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- Alignment of meaningful and relevant projects to academic standards and specific competencies and standards related to maritime.
- Development of culturally responsive assessments of student learning, including structures for sharing learning in multiple modalities.
- Design of support structures for student success in accessing academic, including specific maritime-related learning.
- Creation and curation of lessons, units, and materials to support meaningful, real-world and engaging content to support learning across academic areas integrated with maritime content, such as operating vessels, mastering maritime concepts and terminology, developing advocacy skills and understanding relevant policy development, understanding environmental impact and mitigation, and learning maritime construction skills.
- Development of systems to support students to attain maritime-related certifications.

Community Engagement

Short and long-term strategies to engage community partners to support access to the school will be advanced. In keeping with Port of Seattle's values of equity and accessibility, the focus of this funding is to make maritime careers more visible to BIPOC communities. Ongoing recognition of the Port of Seattle's support of Maritime High School will take place during activities which may include the following:

- Innovative events to share information about the school, and solicit input for ongoing development of the overall program.
- Social media presences to sustain ongoing interest in and support of the school.
- Newsletter publication to share information with stakeholders to nurture and grow support of the school.
- Meeting and networking with community groups supporting the school.
- Conducting regular industry tours at the school to promote interest and understanding of how Maritime High School is contributing to the maritime industry.
- Specific and targeted outreach to tribes and BIPOC communities in King County.

Partnership Development

To engage students in hands-on and relevant learning, relationships will be developed with industry partners to build and deepen learning experiences. Specifically, the following will take place:

- Implement plans for mentorship programming to connect students to industry and community professionals.
- Increase opportunities for extended learning at industry and community sites aligned with standards and maritime competencies.
- Sustain relationships to ensure high quality engagement of partners to inform ongoing development of academic programming to be informed by current and future needs in maritime sector employment.

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Increase Visibility of Maritime Careers

Develop communication protocols and partnerships that support regional student and family awareness of maritime education and careers. Efforts will include the following:

- Include information on broader maritime education opportunities to students, teachers, and families.
- Amplify maritime educational opportunities offered by MHS industry partners.
- Specific focus given to outreach in tribal schools and methods to reach BIPOC communities with the goal of increasing BIPOC’s awareness about maritime careers.

Family and Student Engagement

To ensure current and prospective families and students are fully engaged with the continued development and operation of the school, extensive work will take place to ensure multiple opportunities to provide input on programming, as well as general events to ensure families are fully knowledgeable about the school program, and the full range of employment in the maritime sector. Specifically, the school will:

- Support a student structure to provide feedback and input on school operations.
- Engage prospective families, particularly from BIPOC communities, around knowledge and interest in maritime careers.
- Provide multiple venues for families to provide input, including live meetings and asynchronous platforms for feedback.
- Host events for families to connect with industry and community partners to learn about the full range of maritime careers.
- Provide regular opportunities for prospective families to learn about Maritime High School and the benefits of a career in the maritime industry.

Schedule

Activity

Commission design authorization	2024 Quarter 2
2024 Annual Report	2024 Quarter 4
2025 Annual Report and final payment	2025 Quarter 4

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

No other alternatives are considered as this is an interlocal agreement with a specific school.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total estimated services will not exceed \$500,000 from the tax levy.

Annual Budget Status and Source of Funds

The Executive Director included \$250,000 in the Commission authorized 2024 budget.

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ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST

- (1) Interlocal Agreement
- (2) Annual Report of the Interlocal Agreement between Highline Public Schools and the Port of Seattle
- (3) Presentation

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

April 2021 – The Commission authorized an Interlocal Agreement with Highline Public Schools, Maritime High School

March 2022 – The Commission authorized an Interlocal Agreement with Highline Public Schools, Maritime High School