

# Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation

40 Paddington Road  
Scarsdale, New York 10583

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December 6, 2013

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TO: Scarsdale Board of Education, Suzanne Seiden, President  
Scarsdale School District, Michael McGill, Superintendent

FROM: The Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation,  
Ellen Miller-Wachtel, President

RE: Creating Working Relationships for the Benefit  
of the Scarsdale Schools

This memo is intended to define the working relationship we envision with the Board of Education and the Scarsdale School District. The members of the Board and staff of the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation look forward to working with you on this new initiative to award grants that benefit our students and enhance the value of a Scarsdale education.

Close and open communication among the Foundation, the Board of Education, and District staff will be essential to the success of the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation. Since the presentation by the Foundation's Steering Committee at the Board of Education meeting on December 5, 2011, we have incorporated as a not for profit entity, been recognized as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, established a board of directors, and raised \$1 million in startup funds to support this initiative, while learning more about the educational priorities, aspirations, and financial needs of the District that would be appropriate for the Foundation to address and support.

This Fall, your board approved our first three grants and we awarded a total of \$90,000 for MakerSpace (elementary schools), Gaming and Simulation (Middle School), and HackScarsdale (High School). We have very much appreciated and benefited from the advice and counsel of District staff in selecting these programs as priority needs that are worthy of the Foundation's support.

The Foundation will continue to make funding decisions that support the priorities of the Scarsdale Board of Education and the District. Our goal is helping you improve educational programming in the Scarsdale schools. We have identified a number of steps to realize that goal:

- The Foundation will work with District staff to identify and define projects worthy of funding and that fall outside the budget of the District;
- The Foundation welcomes ideas and information from the Board of Education about new projects in need of funding, and will seek ongoing input from the Board on those projects under consideration;
- Foundation funding decisions will be subject to approval by the Board of Education;
- Funding will be formally accepted by the Board of Education at a public meeting.

While the Foundation is still in its early stages, we hope this is a helpful summary of the relationship we envision. We welcome your input and look forward to a productive relationship on behalf of the students of the Scarsdale Schools.