



**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE**  
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**Request for Gift Account**  
March 28, 2018

The School Department requires specific authorization for new gift funds.

School Committee Action Requested: The School Department would like to request that the School Committee authorize the Town Accountant to set up a Gift Account for the following:

- BHS Community Assistance Gift Account
  - Through various fundraisers and community donations, BHS Social Workers have raised funds to provide short-term assistance to families in the BHS community as they connect with other, more long-term community and government assistance programs. These funds were previously lumped in with a number of other funds and were difficult to track and access. The creation of a dedicated fund will increase transparency in the program and allow for quicker, more reliable access to the funds.
  - Current BHS Gift Account “Social Work Fund” balance
    - \$2,339

Motion: Approve account creation for “BHS Community Assistance Gift Account” per the attached documentation and authorize the transfer of the above amount from the BHS Gift Account into the BHS Community Assistance Gift Account.

## BHS Community Assistance Gift Account

**Fund Number:** TBD

**Director/Program Coordinator:** Maria Letasz, Director of Guidance and Clinical Service  
Darby Neff-Verre, BHS Coordinator of Guidance

**MGL Authorization:**

**Year Established:** 2019

**Program Description:** The BHS Community Assistance Gift Account allows the Brookline High School social workers to strategically provide community support for BHS students/families who have been approved for PSB financial assistance. Possible emergency support could be food, clothing, or other essential basic care short term needs as the social workers help students and families to access and develop more long term support. Assistance from this fund does not supplant local, state, and federal resources, but provides short-term assistance to families while they connect with a broader network of resources.

**Program Time Table:** Year-round

**Fee Structure:** Donations from the community.

**Fund Restrictions:** Funds spent with the express consent of the Coordinator of Guidance on Brookline students, in line with School Committee policy, and pursuant to donor guidelines.

**Budget History:**

	Budget FY19	Budget FY20
	{Org #}	{Org #}
<b>Revenue</b>		
Contributions		
Prior Year Balance		
Transfers/Adjustments		\$2,339
<b>Total Projected Revenue</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salary & Wages		
Stipends		
Operating Expenses		
Services		
Supplies & Materials		\$2,339
Other Costs		
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		-
<b>Projected Final Balance</b>		-

**Recent Developments:** The BHS Community Assistance Gift Account was established prior to fiscal year 2020 as part of a district-wide clean-up of student activity accounts. The money was previously reported in the BHS student activity account and then in a BHS-wide gift account. A school committee vote on Month XX, 2019 moved \$2,339 dollars into a dedicated gift account.

**Current Challenges:** While there are pockets of resources within the greater Brookline community to support students and families in need (ie - Steps to Success, Brookline Mental Health Center, Brookline Teen Center), BHS social workers sometimes find that families need emergency support.

**Significant Proposed Changes for the Upcoming Fiscal Year and Budget Impact:** No budgetary changes. Reporting the funds on the town's ledger and within the fiscal 2020 budget book is new.

**On the Horizon::** Brookline High social workers continue to collaborate with Brookline area agencies to both support families in urgent need and to help families build long term solutions to food/clothing/ basic care needs.