



**TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR STAFF REPORT**

**AGENDA TITLE: Biannual Agency Partnership Interim Update Report
Aim High for High School**

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 28, 2020

PREPARED BY: Marc R. Lamb, Aviation & Community Services Manager

REPRESENTED BY: Aim High for High School, Executive Director Mr. Alec Lee

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No Board action is required at this time. This presentation is a biannual update on the Truckee Tahoe Airport District's (TTAD) Agency Partnership with the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) in mutual support of "Aim High for High School's" (AHHS), Tahoe-Truckee based youth programs. Per the Agency Partnership funding agreement, Aim High's Executive Director Mr. Alec Lee, is providing the attached biannual written interim report to the TTAD Board.

DISCUSSION: At the February 27, 2019 TTAD board meeting, Airport Directors voted 5-0 in support of an Agency Partnership with the TTUSD in mutual support of AHHS. TTAD committed to sponsoring \$30,000 per year for three years (2019-2021). TTAD to date, has met its annual funding commitment in April 2019 and May 2020, with the final \$30,000 budgeted for mid-year 2021. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this past summer's program scheduled for June 22 through July 24, 2020 was held via AHHS's new "Aim High at Home" virtual program.

Aim High for High School is a San Francisco based 501(c)3 non-profit that has a local Tahoe-Truckee program focused on under-resourced middle-school students of all backgrounds. Aim High for High School was founded in 1986 and worked with over 1,200 students this past summer in Northern California (San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, East Palo Alto, Redwood City, San Rafael, Napa, and Tahoe-Truckee). Their mission is to help middle-school students prepare for and excel in high school and even provide inspiration to attend college thru AHHS' tuition-free five-week academic STEM programs.

AHHS' mission is to address and close the documented opportunity and achievement gaps between low-income middle-school children and their higher-income peers in the Tahoe-Truckee area, and fill the void of the lack of programs in our region that address this issue. "Summer slide" during vacation

months for under-resourced students is one of the biggest contributors to achievement gaps, and intervention during middle-school is critical.

AHHS expanded to the Tahoe-Truckee region in 2012 with 45 students. During this past summer 2020, with the challenges of the pandemic, AHHS had just over 40 students in their Tahoe-Truckee academic STEM virtual programs. They have 50 students enrolled in their new Fall 2020 “Aim High at Home” program, with 25 high school students (all Aim High graduates) tutoring and mentoring.

WHAT’S NEXT: TTAD will continue supporting AHHS’s local Tahoe-Truckee program through 2021. An AHHS representative, per the funding agreement, will report back to the Airport Board each spring and fall during the term of this Agency Partnership.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$30,000 per year from 2019 through 2021, \$90,000 total, subject to the terms, conditions and provisions set forth in the contractual Funding Agreement. TTAD’s annual funding check will be made to AHHS by June 1st of each year.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: The Truckee Tahoe Airport District is recognized in AHHS’ annual report mailers, in their E-Newsletter and on their website. TTAD is marketing the partnership support in our standard media venues, when and where appropriate.

SAMPLE MOTION(S): No motion required

ATTACHMENTS:

- Aim High for High School, October 2020 presentation (2 pages)



Thank you to the Truckee Tahoe Airport District for your second installment of \$30,000 to Aim High's summer learning program in Tahoe-Truckee. Your gift helped us create and implement Aim High at Home (AH@H), a new distance learning program in response to COVID-19. Our virtual learning program was designed by educators who recognize that middle school students learn best when they are having fun, and when they feel heard, seen, safe and supported. Consequently, AH@H offered a nurturing, inclusive community and engaging projects.

On June 22nd, AH@H opened its virtual doors to 40* middle schoolers in Tahoe-Truckee. Of these young people:

- 78% were students of color;
- 63% spoke a language other than English at home;
- 78% will be the first generation in their family to graduate from college; and
- 76% live at poverty or low-income levels.

*State-wide shelter-in-place orders forced our admissions team to stop recruiting months before they originally planned. In addition, when we made the switch to virtual learning, attendance was down at TTUSD, which likely carried over to our program (a lot of students had internet issues, which limited participation). These factors impacted our enrollment. Our enrollment goal for summer 2021 is 100 Tahoe-Truckee students.

Program Highlights: The program ran daily through July 24, and core components included:

Community and Connection: Aim High's joyful and inclusive culture was front and center this summer. Students joined their peers and teachers for daily morning circles, twice weekly social/emotional learning, and end-of-week reflections. Students also participated in our signature adolescent development course, Issues & Choices. These safe spaces provided robust opportunities for support and connection.

Academics: Preparing students for success when school begins again is more important than ever. Weekly STEAM challenges, book club and college and career awareness curriculum encouraged students to build critical thinking, literacy and problem-solving skills, and helped them set goals for the future.

Activities & Physical Challenges: Daily enrichment experiences encouraged students to move, try new things and learn in a non-academic setting. Students enjoyed video-on-demand sessions, including Yoga, Mindfulness, Flash Fiction, Neighborhood Hikes, Core Exercises and more. We also collaborated with community-based organizations for live afternoon activities. Our partners in this work are discussed in a subsequent section of this report.

Parent Engagement & Education: Our families need additional support this year, and we are proud to stand with them. Staff provided weekly bulletins which detailed events and activities (including a variety of educational workshops throughout the summer), tips on how to support their child's learning, and fun and engaging family activities. 100% of Tahoe-Truckee parents reported that they learned something new at a parent education session.

Student Outcomes: The Truckee Tahoe Airport District’s impact was measured against the following student outcomes*:

- 88% said they were given assignments that made them think.
- 96% said that teachers encouraged them to ask questions if they didn’t understand.
- 92% said they thought about the quality of their work and how they could make it better.
- 88% said they feel like a part of a community.
- 80% said an Aim High adult really cares about them.
- 88% said they learned at least one mindfulness tool to help them handle stress.
- 80% said they have a more positive attitude about learning.
- 88% said they learned to appreciate their culture and others’ cultures.
- 80% said they learned how to make positive life choices.
- 96% said they have goals and plans for the future.
- 80% said they plan to go to college or some other school after high school.

*Aim High’s traditional metrics were updated to reflect AH@H and the online learning experience.

Looking Ahead: Aim High is planning for one of three scenarios in summer 2021: (1) distance learning, (2) in-person but with a revised staffing/program model that meets public health guidelines, (3) a hybrid in-person/distance learning model. We are also considering ways to share the AH@H curriculum with schools/districts beyond our current partnerships.

In addition, we recently conducted a needs assessment to understand what our students and families (including those who did not join us in summer 2021) need right now. In Tahoe-Truckee, 25 TTUSD high school students (all of whom are Aim High graduates!) will mentor and tutor 50 of our middle school students. Regional Program Manager, Katie Jamison, also a TTUSD history teacher, is leading the effort, and has hired four additional teachers to supervise the pairings and small group sessions.

Gratitude: AH@H was a culmination of decades of experience offering the highest-quality summer learning to some of Northern California’s most vulnerable youth. In the span of three months, our team pivoted quickly to respond to the immediate needs of our community and reimagine summer learning. As always, the voices of our Tahoe-Truckee students speak the loudest:

“Because of Aim High at Home, I could still get educated and learn during the summer. This is good for me because then I don’t fall behind in school. Also because of Aim High I have gotten the opportunity to learn many things that I have always wanted to learn.”

~Dawna, Aim High Tahoe-Truckee student

We are proud that students and families can continue to rely on our free academic and enrichment program during this time of massive disruptions and uncertainty. The Truckee Tahoe Airport District’s support helped make this all possible, and we are grateful that you will be part of our journey in summer 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Alec Lee at alee@aimhigh.org or (415) 425-3480.