

**From:** [Gregory, Arron](#)  
**To:** [FOIA](#)  
**Cc:** [Hailey, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School! EMAIL 1 OF 2  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 9, 2021 5:40:59 PM

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Hi Linda,

This is email one of two to explain the Stamped books FOIA.

Arron Gregory, J.D.  
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer  
2110 Washington Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22204  
Phone: (703) 228-6269

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**From:** "Grayson, Justin" <jugrays@amazon.com>  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 at 10:05 PM  
**To:** Arron Gregory <arron.gregory@apsva.us>  
**Cc:** "Newell, Michelle" <davisnew@amazon.com>, "Peterson, Leslie" <leslie.peterson@apsva.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

That's great news! And yes, I can imagine that in this time, he'd be hard to come by. I'm glad we could support!

Michelle is working on processing the POs as we speak. Michelle, can you provide an update?

Thanks!

**Justin Grayson** | Public Relations Manager | Amazon Logistics  
[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com) | Phone: (850) 445-7409



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**From:** Gregory, Arron <arron.gregory@apsva.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 6:24 PM  
**To:** Grayson, Justin <jugrays@amazon.com>  
**Cc:** Newell, Michelle <davisnew@amazon.com>; Peterson, Leslie <leslie.peterson@apsva.us>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you can confirm the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Justin,

We were able to secure Jason Reynolds for \$10,000 to support our high school activity. Guess he is a hot commodity! Can you or Michelle let me know what is next and the balance of the \$15,000?

-Arron

Arron Gregory, J.D.  
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer  
2110 Washington Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22204  
Phone: (703) 228-6269

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**From:** "Grayson, Justin" <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>  
**Date:** Friday, February 19, 2021 at 1:12 AM  
**To:** Arron Gregory <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>  
**Cc:** "Newell, Michelle" <[davisnew@amazon.com](mailto:davisnew@amazon.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

The option is still on the table for sure, it's just something that APS will have to coordinate – we would provide the funds for the honorarium. We are still working on getting the books though.

With that said, because of your request includes a financial donation component, APS needs to be "on-boarded". I've CC'd my colleague **Michelle Newell** who will be able to work you through the onboarding process. It's important that we get this done as soon as possible so we can get funds to you quickly.

Be on the lookout for a message from Michelle, who will work with you to get the paperwork done.

Feel free to reach out with questions!

**Justin Grayson** | Public Relations Manager | Amazon Logistics  
[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com) | Phone: (850) 445-7409



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**From:** Gregory, Arron <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 9:22 AM  
**To:** Grayson, Justin <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

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Hi Justin,

Is the idea of Jason Reynolds still within reach or it isn't an option now? Also, am I able to share this information with Library Services and Wakefield's principal now or should I wait? I want to give them time to prepare and a heads-up.

Arron Gregory, J.D.  
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer  
2110 Washington Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22204  
Phone: (703) 228-6269

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**From:** "Grayson, Justin" <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>  
**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 12:26 AM  
**To:** Arron Gregory <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>  
**Cc:** "Bellavia, Frank" <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>, "Stockton, Brian" <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

We are still working on securing the books. I think it's a matter of quantity – like whether we have 500-600 books available right now. If not, don't worry, we will either deliver the entire amount, a portion of the full amount, or a check to purchase the books.

And understood. I know Dr. Duran's schedule is probably crazy. We will also have to work with the delivery team's schedule as well. I'll keep you all in the loop, and do the best I can to accommodate!

**Justin Grayson** | Public Relations Manager | Amazon Logistics  
[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com) | Phone: (850) 445-7409



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**From:** Gregory, Arron <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:55 PM

**To:** Grayson, Justin <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>

**Cc:** Bellavia, Frank <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>; Stockton, Brian <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

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Hi Justin,

No worries. You mentioned delivery, can you give me the details? Were you able to secure the books?

I'll defer to Frank to work around the timing with you on the Superintendent's calendar. I know for certain that Tuesday morning all of us would be unavailable due to standing meetings.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

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**From:** Grayson, Justin <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 8:39 PM

**To:** Gregory, Arron

**Cc:** Bellavia, Frank; Stockton, Brian

**Subject:** RE: Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

Aaron! Somehow this message got lost in the craziness of my inbox. My apologies!

Thank you so much for sending this list over. This helps as we are finalizing our contribution list.

I'm shooting for a delivery next Tuesday or Wednesday. Those dates are not set in stone yet, but since you would like to have the Superintendent present, I'd like to get an idea which days of the week work best.

Thanks!

**Justin Grayson** | Public Relations Manager | Amazon Logistics

[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com) | Phone: (850) 445-7409



**From:** Gregory, Arron <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 13, 2021 3:35 PM

**To:** Grayson, Justin <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>

**Cc:** Bellavia, Frank <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>; Stockton, Brian <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

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Hi Justin,

I corresponded with our library services and this opportunity is so timely. Library services just spoke to Wakefield about trying to purchase the book, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason R and Ibram X. However, we ran into a financial hardship with the initial purchase so this would be huge for us. I'd like to give you a few talking points to assist with closing this deal to team Amazon.

- We would like a minimum of 550 books of *Stamped* and perhaps some copies of the *Stamped Study Guide* to really make this investment impactful.
- Wakefield HS has around 500 out of 800 African American high school students district wide.
- Jason Reynolds last visited Arlington in 2015 where he spoke to about 200 middle schoolers and they all received the book, *The Boy in the Black Suit*.
- *Stamped* is currently \$9 on Amazon for consumers. If Amazon purchased 550 titles at \$9 each, you would spend \$4,950 on books, leaving \$7,550.
- Reynolds has honorarium choices on his website that all start below \$5,000 so the remaining amount should cover his fee.
- Wakefield has a 2017 Teacher of the Year, Antoinette Waters, that served on Virginia's [African American History Education Commission](#), from which recent legislation was just born on cultural competency. Waters was recently highlighted on [ABC News](#) for creating a new African American history curriculum that is presently being taught in APS.
- With Amazon and our Superintendent, I'd like to present the \$12,500 check to honor Antoinette Waters
- APS just launched a student led framework called No Place for Hate that requires a committee, signing of a pledge, and a building-wide activity to combat bullying and bias.
- The goal of [No Place for Hate](#)® is to inspire a national movement led by students and educators who are committed to using the power of positive peer influence to build inclusive and safe schools in which all students can thrive.
- A virtual discussion/convocation with Jason Reynolds or Ibram X could be used to satisfy the requirements of a building-wide activity for No Place for Hate.

I realize Amazon's target group for Black History, but we all know that anti-racism work requires all allies. Our collective ask is that we open up the possible opportunity for other high school student populations to participate in a virtual convocation with Jason Reynolds or Ibram X as well. I hope the bullets above paint a win-win and a clear vision of the opportunity here to really make a collective impact.

I look forward to hearing back soon and thanks in advance for investing in our students!

Best,

-Arron

Arron Gregory, J.D.  
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer  
2110 Washington Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22204  
Phone: (703) 228-6269

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**From:** Arron Gregory <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>  
**Date:** Saturday, February 13, 2021 at 9:27 AM  
**To:** "Stockton, Brian" <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>, "Grayson, Justin" <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>  
**Cc:** "Bellavia, Frank" <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>, "Wilcher, Corve" <[corve.wilcher@apsva.us](mailto:corve.wilcher@apsva.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

Hi Justin,

Due to the amount and to maximize the most impact to your targeted group, we'd like to move forward with Wakefield HS.

Let me know when you'd like to discuss next steps. It is a short week this week. Have a great weekend!

-Arron

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**From:** Grayson, Justin <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2021 9:04:12 PM  
**To:** Gregory, Arron <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>; Stockton, Brian <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>  
**Cc:** Bellavia, Frank <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>; Wilcher, Corve <[corve.wilcher@apsva.us](mailto:corve.wilcher@apsva.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

Hi APS team. I just wanted to check in and see if we've made a final decision call on the school that will receive the Amazon donation.

In my notes, I have us considering Wakefield HS. Was there another one that was under consideration that I'm forgetting?

FYI: I'm still working on getting sign off on an order of Jason Reynolds' book, but that's on hold for

now.

Let's talk as soon as possible so we can get the specific school nailed down and we can begin planning for the delivery.

Thanks, have a great weekend!!

**Justin Grayson** | Public Relations Manager | Amazon Logistics  
[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com) | Phone: (850) 445-7409



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**From:** Grayson, Justin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 10:58 AM  
**To:** 'Gregory, Arron' <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>; Stockton, Brian <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>  
**Cc:** Bellavia, Frank <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>; Wilcher, Corve <[corve.wilcher@apsva.us](mailto:corve.wilcher@apsva.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

That works for me.

Thanks!

**Justin Grayson** | Public Relations Manager | Amazon Logistics  
[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com) | Phone: (850) 445-7409



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**From:** Gregory, Arron <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 10:55 AM  
**To:** Grayson, Justin <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>; Stockton, Brian <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>  
**Cc:** Bellavia, Frank <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>; Wilcher, Corve <[corve.wilcher@apsva.us](mailto:corve.wilcher@apsva.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

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I will ask my EA to schedule us using MS Teams if ok with you.

Arron Gregory, J.D.  
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer  
2110 Washington Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22204  
Phone: (703) 228-6269

---

**From:** "Grayson, Justin" <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 1:23 PM  
**To:** Arron Gregory <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>, "Stockton, Brian" <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>  
**Cc:** "Bellavia, Frank" <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

Sure. This time works. Do you have a preferred meeting platform? Zoom, Microsoft, Google?

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**From:** Gregory, Arron <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 6:48 AM  
**To:** Grayson, Justin <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>; Stockton, Brian <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>  
**Cc:** Bellavia, Frank <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

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Hi Justin,

Brian and I can meet with you today from 3:30-4PM today and thank you for the opportunity. That is the only window we have today. Also, is it possible to split between several buildings based upon the demographics of Arlington? APS is around 9-10% African American unlike the other districts below. I've attached our most recent Civil Rights data for you to look at.

-Arron

Arron Gregory, J.D.  
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer  
2110 Washington Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22204  
Phone: (703) 228-6269

---

**From:** "Grayson, Justin" <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:55 PM



**To:** "Bellavia, Frank" <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>, Arron Gregory <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>, "Stockton, Brian" <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>

**Subject:** RE: Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

Frank – Thanks so much for the introductions.

Brian and Aaron, it's great to virtually meet you. We are excited to work with APS on this opportunity!

The next steps in the process are to identify one specific school as the donation recipient, and come up with some ideas about what the donation will be. As I stated in my original message, options are kindles, laptops, school supplies, robotics equipment, and possibly even wireless hotspots for remote learning.

**Are you available for a 30 minute call at either 130pm or 4pm ET Wednesday afternoon?** If not, please feel free to propose a few other times.

Looking forward to moving forward.

**Justin Grayson** | Public Relations Manager | Amazon Logistics  
[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com) | Phone: (850) 445-7409



---

**From:** Bellavia, Frank <[frank.bellavia@apsva.us](mailto:frank.bellavia@apsva.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 9, 2021 3:54 PM

**To:** Grayson, Justin <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)>; Gregory, Arron <[arron.gregory@apsva.us](mailto:arron.gregory@apsva.us)>; Stockton, Brian <[brian.stockton@apsva.us](mailto:brian.stockton@apsva.us)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Amazon Would Like to Make a Donation to an APS School!

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you can confirm the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Justin,

By way of email, I am introducing you to Brian Stockton, our Chief of Staff and Arron Gregory, our chief diversity officer who worked closely with Amazon a couple of months ago on another initiative. We are definitely interested in this initiative.

How would you like us to proceed?

Frank Bellavia

Director of Communications | Arlington Public Schools

O: [703-228-6004](tel:703-228-6004) | C: [703-517-0705](tel:703-517-0705)

[www.apsva.us](http://www.apsva.us) | [www.facebook.com/ArlingtonPublicSchools](https://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonPublicSchools)

<http://twitter.com/APSVirginia> | [www.instagram.com/APSVirginia](https://www.instagram.com/APSVirginia)

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On Feb 9, 2021, at 3:57 PM, Grayson, Justin <[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com)> wrote:

**CAUTION** This email originated from outside of Arlington Public Schools.  
Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Hi Frank. Thanks for taking my call this afternoon.

In reference to what we chatted about, [here is a blog post](#) that details just a few of Amazon's Black History Month initiatives. Near the bottom of the post, you'll see the below paragraph, which is the reason why I reached out to you:

#### **Delivering joy**

Amazon Logistics will be delivering smiles to educational institutions and nonprofit organizations that empower Black voices and serve Black communities. Through Amazon's NeighborGood program, we have committed to donating \$100,000 to a select group of recipients in Atlanta, Georgia; Arlington, Virginia; Houston, Texas; and Nashville, Tennessee. Partnering with our local delivery stations and delivery service partners, Amazon will provide in-kind donations of items from Black-owned small businesses and books by Black authors, as well as financial donations that support the company's efforts to invest in education and technology by providing devices to students and families in historically underserved communities.

We are looking for a school that serves a large population of Black students and families. Additional criteria can include things like: located in an historically underserved community; serves students interested in the arts or innovation; or schools that have specific other needs related to student access to technology and devices.

In the past, we've donated kindles, laptops, school supplies, robotics equipment. When

I connect with the appropriate parties, we can work to ID the best options.

Thanks for being open to this opportunity. Looking forward hearing back from you!

**Justin Grayson** | Public Relations Manager | Amazon Logistics  
[jugrays@amazon.com](mailto:jugrays@amazon.com) | Phone: (850) 445-7409

<image001.jpg>