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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BMS Supports Lawrence Township Public Schools through a grant to the Lawrence Township Education Foundation**

LAWRENCE, N.J. - The Lawrence Township Education Foundation (LTEF) is pleased to announce it has awarded \$20,182 to the Lawrence Township Public Schools to for **S.E.E. STEM, B.E. STEM (Strengthening Equitable Experiences in STEM, Building Entries into STEM)** at Slackwood Elementary. This initiative will bring creative STEM materials including a fully stocked STEM cart, STEM challenges and Chromebooks into the new STEAM and Media Center being built at Slackwood. This contribution was made possible by a grant from Bristol Myers Squibb. This brings the total contributed by the LTEF to LTPS for the 2019-2020 school year to \$ ***\$203,885 for 76 different grants!***

Last academic year, the Lawrence Township Education Foundation invested \$100,000 in 2019 to relocate Slackwood Elementary School's current library (approx. only 1400 square feet) to the lower level of the school to create a space that will significantly improve learning for students, staff, families and the community. According to Karen Faiman, Executive Director of the Lawrence Township Education Foundation, "We are excited by the entire renovation of this space and proud to be a vital part of it. It is our hope that the space and the materials from the **S.E.E. STEM, B.E. STEM** grant will spark excitement and curiosity in STEM topics and ignite passion for future careers in STEM."

This summer the space will be transformed into two distinct areas. The Slackwood Library Media Zone will contain the original library's book collection (sorted and displayed in refurbished bookcases), an interactive television (or projector and mounted screen), creative seating options and research necessities including laptops and iPads. This new library zone will be able to accommodate multiple classes for lessons and projects as well as visitors for assemblies and programs. They will also expand the book collection (which is the smallest of the district's four elementary schools) and bring more timely and captivating titles (in both print and new media formats) to the students. The other learning area, created on the other side of the basement, will be the Slackwood STREAM Center, a space dedicated to exploration and discovery within Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Math.

**S.E.E. STEM, B.E. STEM** will further add to this new learning space. It will start with a fully stocked STEM cart with 35 bins filled with construction materials, circuits, robotics, project-based design materials and low-tech items like cardboard, duct tape, string and glue. This STEM Cart will provide K-3 students at Slackwood with many opportunities to generate creative ideas and strengthen their science, technology, engineering and math knowledge. Students and teachers will learn a variety of ways to apply STEM skills in the classroom and connect them to curricular areas. These learning experiences (low tech and high-tech projects which explore topics like energy, transportation, communication, coding, eco-literacy and the Global Goals) will be provided during weekly Library and Makerspace lessons. Monthly STEM presentations will provide chances for all students to "see it, be it!"