



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Haven, Connecticut

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 16, 2021

MINUTES

VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Mr. Matthew Wilcox, Ms. Yesenia Rivera, Mr. Larry Conaway

Staff: Dr. Iline Tracey, Mr. Phillip Penn, Ms. Michele Bonanno, Ms. Typhanie Jackson, Ms. Patricia DeMaio, Mr. Michael Gormany, Ms. Gail Sharry, Attorney Elia Alexiades,
Closed Captioner

Call to Order: Mr. Wilcox called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Summary of Motions:

- **Motion to Recommend Approval of Action Items:** After presentation of the following Action Items, a motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Conaway, to **Recommend Approval of 5 Abstracts and 3 Agreements**, passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Mr. Conaway, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.
- **Motion regarding Local 217 Tentative Agreement and Healthcare MOA:** A motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Ms. Rivera, to **Recommend Approval of the Local 217 Unite Here Tentative Agreement and Healthcare MOA**, passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Mr. Conaway, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.
- **Motion to Adjourn:** A motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Conaway to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m., passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

I. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **ABSTRACTS:** Ms. Bonanno presented the following 5 Bond funding Abstracts. She noted that the grant was competitive and that the district won all five. The grant provides funding to upgrade Wi-Fi access, whiteboards and other online learning aids. In response to questions, Ms. Bonanno reported that school principals participated in planning for the grant by providing an assessment of needs.

1. Low Performing Schools Bond Funding– Brennan/Rogers School, in the amount of \$199,941.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. **Funding Source:** Connecticut State Department of Education
2. Low Performing Schools Bond Funding – Celentano School, in the amount of \$174,002.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. **Funding Source:** Connecticut State Department of Education
3. Low Performing Schools Bond Funding – Troup School, in the amount of \$199,899.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. **Funding Source:** Connecticut State Department of Education

4. Low Performing Schools Bond Funding – Truman School in the amount of \$186,842.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. **Funding Source:** Connecticut State Department of Education
5. Low Performing Schools Bond Funding - HSC in the amount of \$199,431.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. **Funding Source:** Connecticut State Department of Education

B. AGREEMENTS:

1. Agreement with All Pointe Home Care, LLC to provide one-to-one nursing care to a medically fragile student with developmental delays, from February 8, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$24,500.00 was presented by Ms. Jackson. In response to questions, Ms. Jackson explained that the district submits one to two Agreements per year for nursing care but that the need cannot be predicted from year to year. **Funding Source:** IDEA Program **Acct. #2504-5034-56903-0000**
2. Amendment #1 to Agreement #96273553 with Boys and Girls Club of New Haven, to decrease funding of \$65,200.00 by \$18,000.00 to \$46,400.00 for Bishop Woods School, due to late start of program, and to change funding accounts was presented by Mr. Penn in the absence of Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin. **Funding Source:** 21st Century Program
Acct. # 2579-6273-56694-0043 (\$38,000.00)
 21st Century Carryover Program
Acct. #2579-6280-56694-0043 (\$ 8,400.00)
 Extended School Hours Program
Acct. #2579-5326-56694-0043 (\$0)
3. Agreement with Windstream Enterprise to provide telecommunications carrier services at three locations VOIP phone system (Gateway Center, Wilbur Cross, and Hill Central) from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$56,244.00 was presented by Mr. Penn in the absence of Ms. Herrera. **Funding Source:** 2020-2021 Operating Budget **Acct. #190-47200-52260**

II. DISCUSSION:

- **Local 217 Unite Here Tentative Agreement and Healthcare MOA:** Mr. Gormany reviewed a Memo included in the packet which highlighted two areas of change in the Agreement: wage increases and Health Care. The four year tentative Agreement, effective July 1, 2020, provides wage increases of 2.50% for FY2021 retroactive to July 2020; 2.75% for FY2022; 3.00% for FY2023 and 3.00% for FY2024. Mr. Gormany explained that the wage increases are in line with similar bargaining units and address concern that Local 217 employees do not have step increases; they are paid the same hourly rate based on job class regardless of number of years of service. Mr. Gormany also explained that Local 217 is the only bargaining unit on a third party medical plan. In an effort to maintain health care costs, the Union agreed to a two-tiered plan: the current platinum plan and a less expense gold plan. He anticipates that 30% of the eligible employees will switch to the gold plan which will create cost savings for the employee, City and Board of Education. Mr. Gormany projects that cost savings on the healthcare plans will help to offset wage increases. A discussion ensued. Mr. Wilcox asked staff to provide Board of Education members with a written description of the process, including the number of employees who voted in favor of the Agreement. **Motion:** A motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Ms. Rivera, to **Recommend Approval of the Local 217**

Unite Here Tentative Agreement and Healthcare MOA, passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Mr. Conaway, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

- **School Administrators Association (SAA) MOA** regarding Sick Time: Mr. Penn withdrew the topic, explaining that attorneys are in the process of reviewing the MOA.
- **Grant/Win Loss Report:** Mr. Penn reviewed the report noting the status of grants submitted to date, as well as, upcoming submittals. He commended the work of the grant writer who works collaboratively with staff to prepare grant applications. A discussion ensued about the importance of having a staff member dedicated to the grant writing function. In response to questions, Mr. Penn indicated that the grant writer will continue to seek newer funding source opportunities. **No motion was made and no vote taken.**
- **January 2021 Financial Results:** Mr. Penn reviewed the Financial Report noting that total expenditures through January 31, 2021 of \$106.5 million. He reported that General Fund expenditures are \$78.5 million or 41.5% of the adopted budget. Grant expenditures are \$28.0 million or 41.5% of the adopted budget. Mr. Penn noted that non-payroll expenses paid out during the month increased \$7 million of which \$4 million was transportation, as anticipated in previous reports. He noted that transportation and tuition expenditures do not reflect funds received from grants or other revenue sources. Mr. Penn reported that Finance staff completed a line-by-line review of all expenditures for the first 6 months. As noted in previous reports, grant revenue is down over last year due to the one-time ESSERF grant. Mr. Penn also reported that planning is underway for the new Cares Act II grant. Ms. Keisha Hannans will provide an overview of the planning process at the February 22, 2021 Board of Education meeting. A discussion ensued. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **Governor's proposed biennial budget:** Mr. Penn and committee members discussed the negative impact the Governor's proposed budget will have on NHPS and other school districts. The proposed budget provides increases to education using federal funds for Covid relief while funding for Equitable Cost Sharing (ECS) will be flat funded for two years. Mr. Penn explained that with Federal grants, funds cannot be used to supplant, so it is unclear how the proposed plan to use federal funds would be implemented. Overall, the proposed budget has a negative impact of \$9 million dollars on NHPS. A discussion ensued. Mr. Penn and Dr. Tracey reported that they have planned meetings with the State delegation and will participate in public hearings. Mr. Penn conferred with the district's lobbyist on the most impactful action that can be taken and will update the Board of Education. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **2021-2022 Budget:** Mr. Penn reviewed the presentation noting changes made from the original budget presentation which include more detail on the drop in utilities. The equitable school funding model was discussed. Committee members and staff concurred that the model should be provided to the DELT for review. He noted that an equitable funding model can't be resolved in one year but will evolve over several years. Mr. Penn explained that he will present at the first public forum on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **Timeline West Rock and Quinnipiac School Closures:** The Committee discussed the timetable for closing. Mr. Wilcox questioned what Board actions are necessary. Mr. Penn reported that he has contacted the State regarding timetable for informing them of closure. He also is working with Facilities and will utilize

the plan for the closing of Strong to develop a facilities plan. Mr. Wilcox asked that the topic remain on the F&O agendas for future meetings. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**

Adjournment: A motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Conaway to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m., passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DeMaio