



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Haven, Connecticut

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 1, 2021

MINUTES

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Staff: Dr. Iline Tracey, Mr. Phillip Penn, Dr. Paul Whyte, Ms. Patricia DeMaio, Ms. Jessica Haxhi, Ms. Gilda Herrera, Ms. Lynn Brantley, Mr. Kenneth Matthews, Ms. Typhanie Jackson, Ms. Elizabeth Gaffney, Ms. Pamela Jefferson, Mr. Joseph Barbarotta, Mr. William Zesner, Ms. Gemma Joseph-Lumpkin, Mr. Arthur Edwards, Attorney Elias Alexiades, Ms. Ivelise Velasquez, Ms. Keisha Redd-Hannans

Closed Captioner

Call to Order: Mr. Wilcox called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Summary of Motions:

- **Motion to Recommend Approval of Action Items:** After presentation of the following Action Items, a motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Ms. Rivera, to **Recommend Approval of 1 Abstracts and 6 Agreements**, passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Mr. Conaway, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.
- **Motion to Adjourn:** A motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Ms. Rivera to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m., passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Mr. Conaway, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

I. ACTION ITEMS:

A. ABSTRACTS:

1. Head Start Carryover Funds, in the amount of \$820,403.57 for February 8, 2021 to June 30, 2021 was presented by Ms. Gaffney who answered questions about the carryover funds.
Funding Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

B. AGREEMENTS:

1. Amendment #1 to Agreement #'s 91331335 and 96018553 with Area Cooperative Educational Services, (ACES), to change the funding source from 2020-2021 Operating Budget, Acct. #190-410-00-56694 (\$579,075.00) to Alliance Program, Acct. #2547-6108-56694-0000 was presented by Ms. Jackson who confirmed that Amendment changes funding source only; there is no change in total funding amount.
Funding Source: Alliance Program **Acct. #2547-6108-56694-0000 (\$1,479,075.00)**
2. Amendment #1 to Agreement #96269592 with Panorama Education, Inc. to change the funding account # from Title IVA, acct. #2511-6269-56694-0000 to Title IVA, acct. #2511-6291-56694-0000 with no change in

funding amount was presented by Ms. Haxhi.

Funding Source: Title IVA Program **Acct. #2511-6291-56694-0000**

3. Amendment #2 to Agreement #96291537 with Voiance Language Services, LLC, to increase funding of \$12,000.00 by \$5,000.00 to \$17,000.00 for increased translation services was presented by Ms. Haxhi who explained that the service is more widely utilized by teachers and staff in their communication with parents.

Funding Sources:

Title IVA Program **Acct. #2511-6291-56694-0000** (\$ 13,000.00)
 ESSERF Program **Acct. #25506342-56694-0000** (\$ 4,000.00)

4. Amendment #1 to Agreement #96108589 with 3Prime Web Solutions to change the funding source and account number from Alliance Program, Acct. #2547-6108-56694-0000 to Alliance Program Acct. #2547-6107-56694-0000 with no change in funding amount was presented by Ms. Brantley.

Funding Source: Alliance Program **Acct. #2547-6107-56694-0000**

5. Amendment #1 to Agreement #96108590 with Center for the Collaborative Classroom, to change the funding source and account number from Alliance Program, Acct. #2547-6108-56694-0000 to Alliance Program, Acct. #2547-6106-56694-0000 with no change in funding amount was presented by Ms. Brantley.

Funding Source: Alliance Program **Acct. #2547-6106-56694-0000**

6. Amendment #1 to Agreement #96273615 with Arte, Inc., to increase funding of \$34,400 by \$5,00.00 to \$39,400.00 for ARTE Saturday Academy and to fund the Agreement as follows, was presented by Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin:

Funding Sources:

Extended School Hours Program **Acct. #2579-5326-56694-0013** (\$10,000.00)
 21st Century Program **Acct. #2579-6243-56697-0013** (\$ 5,000.00)
 21st Century Carryover Program **Acct. #2579-6250-56694-0013** (\$ 3,400.00)
 21st Century Program **Acct. #2579-6273-56694-0009** (\$ 8,000.00)
 State After School Program **Acct. #2579-6205-56697-0000** (\$ 8,000.00)
 Extended School Hours Program **Acct. #2579-5326-56694-0000** (\$ 5,000.00)

7. Agreement with MakeHaven, Inc., to provide sewing lessons and activities for students and parents at Fair Haven School, from March 8, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$4,608.00 was presented by Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin.

Funding Source: State Afterschool Program **Acct. #2579-6205-56697-0016**

8. Amendment #1 to Agreement #95027585 with Sergio Rodriguez to increase funding of \$19,500.00 by \$19,560.00 to \$39,120.00 and, to increase the number of days from 80 by 80 to 160 days for direct services to McKinney Vento families was presented by Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin.

Funding Sources:

Title I Program **Acct. #2531-5201-56694-0000** (\$19,560.00)
 McKinney Vento Program **Acct. # 2503-5027-56697-0000** (\$19,560.00)

Discussion: In response to questions, Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin reported that the contractor is helping to serve 400 families. Based on the need, Committee members asked about the feasibility of hiring the contractor for the role rather than continuing on an Agreement, a consideration discussed at other meetings in the past. Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin will continue to follow-up.

9. Agreement with Solar Youth, Inc., to provide an afterschool environmental and personal development program for students at Brennan-Rogers School, March 9, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.00 was presented by Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin.
Funding Source: 21st Century Program **Acct. #2579-6354-56697-0021**
10. Agreement with Music Haven to provide music instruction to students at East Rock, Wexler Grant and John Daniels schools, from March 10, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 was presented by Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin.
Funding Sources:
 21st Century Program **Acct. #2579-6325-56697-0032** (\$8,000.00)
 Extended School Hours Program **Acct. #2579-5326-56694-0000** (\$7,000.00)
11. Agreement with New Haven Read Community Book Bank to provide after school tutoring for students reading below grade level, from March 9, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 was presented by Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin.
Funding Source: Extended School Hours Program **Acct. #2579-5326-56694-0000**
12. Agreement with Curriculum Associates, LLC to provide Ready Classroom Mathematics, from March 10, 2021 to June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$2,097,576.00 was presented by Mr. Matthews who answered questions about curriculum.
Funding Source: Title I Program **Acct. #2531-5256-56694** (\$1,285,002)
Funding Source: Alliance District Academics **Acct. #2547-6107-56694** (\$812,574)
Discussion: In response to questions, Mr. Matthews explained that the contractor will receive a one-time payment for the five year Agreement and that the program will be evaluated on an ongoing basis. He explained that teachers have tested the curriculum and enthusiastically supported it.

II. DISCUSSION:

➤ 2021-2022 Budget:

Bill 886/Governor's Proposed Budget: Mr. Penn reported two major opportunities to express opposition to the ECS freeze on spending in the governor's proposed budget: The State Legislator's Education Committee will host a public hearing on Bill 886 on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. In addition, the Appropriations Committee will host a public hearing on March 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed funding. Mr. Penn urged Board members to attend or write in to oppose the Bill. Mr. Wilcox reported that the Public School Advocates have developed a communication about these hearings that he will forward to staff; the communication can be used a model for communication with Board, staff and community.

2021-2022 Budget Presentations: Mr. Penn reported that he has completed two Community Budget Presentations; approximately 60 people attended the first meeting and approximately 30 attended the second meeting. He will schedule additional meetings if needed.

Mayor's 2021-2022 Budget: Mr. Penn reported that Mayor Elicker has proposed two budget versions, a worst case scenario budget that flat funds the district and a budget that provides a \$3 million increase for the district. Committee members discussed the need to begin thinking about budget mitigation strategies for the future.

No motions were made and no votes was taken.

- **Boiler Update:** Mr. Barbarotta reviewed the boiler maintenance program and explained that all boilers are chemically treated for start-up but that replacements are needed. Wexler has two boilers, one down and the second one coming to the end of its life cycle. Boilers and related work for Wexler and Fair Haven have been put out to bid, a process that takes 3 months; the bid is currently in the final stage of the process. There was one low bidder who retracted but has since submitted for portions of the work. Mr. Conaway asked for clarification on the GoTo contract in terms of responsibility for overseeing boilers. Mr. Barbarotta explained that the company is responsible for the maintenance but not the construction portion of the replacement work. A qualified engineer must determine the type of product purchased. In addition, Mr. Barbarotta explained that the Chief Operating Officer works with city engineers to coordinate the program. Committee members concurred that the COO position should be filled. Dr. Tracey also noted that the district must look at a long term plan for replacement of systems. A discussion ensued. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**

- **4-Year Enrollment Decline:** Mr. Penn shared a report outlining enrollment by school and grade since 2016, when enrollment was at its peak. He noted that the largest declines are in the PreK-2nd grade levels. While the past year could be attributed to Covid, a total of 2,000 students have left over a 4 year period. Some feedback has suggested that the decline could be related to PreK hours of operation and/or the rise in charter schools. Mr. Penn suggested exit interviews with parents who choose not to return and a review of demographics and projections over the next 10 years. Mr. Conaway and Mr. Wilcox noted that SCSU and Quinnipiac universities are experiencing enrollment declines. Mr. Conaway also suggested that the district take a deeper dive into immigration data to help inform the review. A discussion ensued. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**

- **Wi-Fi Upgrade:** Ms. Herrera reported that the district has engaged in a 3-year, 3- tier upgrade process focused on replacement of failing equipment and adding on access points. In an effort to respond to lower grades return to school, the first tier upgrade was completed; she anticipates that the 2nd tier will be complete by the end of March. The 3rd tier focuses on external access points and will be complete by fall. All schools will be served by the upgrades. A discussion ensued about funding sources for the project. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**

- **Filter Update:** Mr. Barbarotta reviewed a report outlining status of 6,244 filters for 4.2 million square feet that were purchased and replaced this year. He explained that in the past a custodial engineer was responsible for filter replacement but the position was eliminated and custodial staff at schools have taken on the responsibility. Mr. Barbarotta discussed various types of filters required and special requirements when Career was used as a Covid site. He indicated that in the months ahead filters will be replaced for the second time this year. Committee members discussed checks and balances needed to ensure timely filter replacement. Mr. Wilcox asked for a written update in the Board packets that details information discussed, including information on funding. He asked that the topic remain on the agenda for the next Finance & Operations Committee meeting. He also asked that the Boiler Update remain on the next agenda. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DeMaio