



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Haven, Connecticut

**NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, March 15, 2021

MINUTES

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

**Staff:** Dr. Tracey, Mr. Phillip Penn, Dr. Paul Whyte, Ms. Patricia DeMaio, Ms. Tessa Gumbs-Johnson, Dr. Glynis Harrell-King, Attorney Elias Alexiades, Ms. Melissa Manzione, Ms. Heather Barbarotta, Mr. Joseph Barbarotta, Mr. Mark Altieri  
**Closed Captioner**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Wilcox called the meeting to order at 4:33 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 Abstract and 5 Agreements**, passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Mr. Conaway, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.
- **Motion to Adjourn:** A motion by Mr. Conaway, seconded by Ms. Rivera to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m., passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Mr. Conaway, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

**I. INFORMATION ONLY & ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. INFORMATION ONLY -** Committee members did not have questions about the following Information Only items approved by the Superintendent:

1. Agreement with Excel Academy, LLC, to provide a CNA training program for students preparing for entry-level employment in the healthcare field, from March 9, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$13,180.00. **Funding Source:** Title IVA Program **Acct.#** 2511-6291-56694-0091
2. Agreement with Psychological Assessment Services, LLC, to conduct 25 psychological assessments, from March 9, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$18,500.00. **Funding Source:** IDEA Program **Acct. #**2504-5034-56903-0000

**B. ABSTRACT:**

1. Carl D. Perkins Continuous Improvement Plan Grant, in the amount of \$501,238.00 for July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 was presented by Dr. Paul Whyte, who provided an explanation of equipment expenditures to support specific career areas such as carpentry and computer technology. In addition, he explained that funds will be used to pay stipends to teachers who assist with the program. Dr. Whyte also introduced Ms. Manzione, the lead Career-Tech teacher who assists with all aspects of the grant. **Funding**

**Source:** Connecticut State Department of Education

**C. AGREEMENTS:**

1. Amendment #2 to Agreement #95034527 and #91331336 with Aspire Living & Learning, Inc., to change the schools from Brenan-Rogers, Strong and Helene Grant Schools to Dr. Mayo School, and to split the funding as follows with no change in funding amount, was presented by Dr. Harrell-King on behalf of Ms. Jackson. In response to questions about the funding switch to one school, she explained that the funding has shifted to support shifting enrollment.

<b>Funding Source:</b>	IDEA Program	<b>Acct. #2504-5034-56903-0000 (\$453,200.00)</b>
	2020-2021 Operating Budget	<b>Acct. #190-494-56694 (\$ 37,700.00)</b>

2. Agreement with The Leadership Academy to provide phase one of a district-wide leadership development program for school leadership from April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$20,715.00 was presented by Dr. Whyte and Ms. Gumbs-Johnson, who described the leadership program as part of a longer program supported by the Wallace Foundation through UConn. Ms. Gumbs-Johnson also explained that this Agreement is one of two Agreements; a second Agreement will be submitted for programming that will begin in July 2021.

**Funding Source:** Wallace Foundation/UConn Program **Acct. #190-454-00-56694**

3. Agreement with SK Mechanical, LLC to replace the boiler at Fair Haven School from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$360,575.00. .

**Funding Source:** Alliance Capital Program **Acct. #30809002-58708**

4. Agreement with Biosvert Plumbing to replace the boiler at Wexler Grant School from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$229,500.00.

**Funding Source:** Alliance Capital Program **Acct. #30809002-58708**

**Discussion:** Mr. Barbarotta presented the boiler replacement Agreements, items #3 and #4, explaining that the two contractors were the lowest bidders. He also explained that the purchasing process has taken 3-4 months and that he will meet with the City’s Purchasing Department to discuss the possibility of streamlining the process so that it flows in a more timely and efficient manner. A discussion ensued.

5. Memorandum of Agreement by and between New Haven Board of Education and the School Administrators Association of New Haven regarding Article XIII Section 1 Sick Leave, in effect from July 1, 2020 to June 20, 2023 was presented by Mr. Penn who explained that the MOA increases the maximum number of accrued sick time without impacting the amount paid out at retirement, which is more comparable with the Teacher’s contract. A discussion ensued.

**II. DISCUSSION:**

- **February 2021 Financial Results:** Mr. Penn reviewed the Financial Report noting a \$31,000 change from January’s forecast. The report reflects higher than expected overtime in January and February due to preparation for school reopening and costs for snow removal. At the same time, we received a higher than expected reimbursement rate for Special Education, as well as, continued lower utility expenses and legal settlements. Mr. Penn noted that the \$37.8 million ESSER II funds are not included in the current report. A

discussion ensued. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**

- **2021-2022 Budget Update:** Mr. Penn reported on testimony to State Legislators against the ECS freeze on spending. He explained that State Legislators will now submit their version of the budget to the Governor in the coming weeks. The district will have an opportunity to present its budget to the New Haven Board of Alders on April 17, 2021. Once the Governor's budget and City budget are approved, the Board of Education will then be involved in contingency planning based on funding awarded. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **Timeline West Rock and Quinnipiac School Closures:** Mr. Wilcox noted that the topic is deferred to the next Finance & Operations Committee meeting because staff is waiting for clarification and instruction on from the State Department of Education. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **LED Lighting Project Report:** Mr. Barbarotta, Ms. Barbarotta and Mr. Altieri described the lighting upgrade program sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Six schools benefited from lighting upgrades in the latest program: Wilbur Cross, Wexler Grant, Mauro Sheridan, Edgewood, Co-Op and Fair Haven. Mr. Barbarotta also reviewed cost savings on electric costs, totaling \$506,531 per year, as well as a cost savings on maintenance because the new lighting only requires replacement bulbs every ten years. A discussion ensued. Mr. Wilcox recommended that the report include next steps in the project and that it be included in the packets for Board of Education members. He also asked that the report be shared with building leaders and the student groups interested in climate change and savings. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **Boiler Replacement Update:** In response to questions, Mr. Barbarotta reported that the Stewardship Committee and City Engineers have been asked to assist in evaluation of boilers at Hillhouse, Nathan Hale and Lincoln Bassett schools. He will provide an update at future meetings. In the meantime, Mr. Barbarotta reported they are currently working on evaluating air conditioning and chillers. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **Filer Replacement Report:** Mr. Barbarotta reviewed a sign-off sheet system that will be used in each building to monitor filter replacements by custodial staff. A discussion ensued about timely replacement of filters and monitoring. Mr. Conaway also discussed the need to consider hiring an engineer on staff and the potential of using closed schools to store filter supplies. Mr. Barbarotta also discussed the filtration system, explaining that each HVAC system uses two filters: a pre-filter to capture particles and a second filter. The CDC requires that at least one MERV13 filter be used; the filter captures water droplets. As a precaution, staff installed two MERV 13 filters but discovered that this combination restricts air flow and causes HVAC issues. Mr. Barbarotta recommended switching to a combination: a MERV 8 as the pre-filter and the MERV 13. A discussion ensued. Committee members concurred that the staff should consult with Fuss & O'Neill and city engineers.

**Adjournment:** A motion by Mr. Conaway, seconded by Ms. Rivera to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. passed unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Conaway, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DeMaio