



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Haven, Connecticut

**SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

January 21, 2020

4:30 p.m.

Gateway Center – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room

**Meeting called to order:** 4:38 p.m.

**Adjournment:** 6:34 p.m.

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

**Staff:** Dr. Iline Tracey, Mr. Phillip Penn, Mr. Michael Pinto, Ms. Patricia DeMaio, Dr. Glynis King-Harrell, Dr. Paul Whyte, Ms. Keisha Redd-Hannans, Dr. Richard Therrien, Ms. Gemma Joseph Lumpkin, Mr. Thomas Smith, Ms. Elizabeth Gaffney; Chief Thaddeus Reddish, Dr. Nicholas Perrone, Ms. Dina Natalino, Mr. Pedro Mendia

**Guests:** Mr. Rodney Williams, Ms. Sarah Miller, Dr. Jill Kelly, Mr. Brian Zahn, Mr. Chris Peaks

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. INFORMATION ONLY**

1. The Superintendent approved Amendment #1 to Agreement # 96238440 with Kaplan, Inc., to change the Compensation section from a per session cost of \$2,0087.50 to a per course cost \$8,350.00 for a total of two courses, with no change in funding amount or funding source, to reflect how the contractor bills for service.

**Funding Source:** RISE Innovation Program  
Acct. # 2528-6238-56694-0063

**(Pages # 11-15)**

2. The Superintendent approved Amendment #1 to Agreement #96279391 with Center for the Collaborative Classroom to change the funding account # from School Improvement Grant (SIG) Strong Program, acct # 2531-6279-56694-0028 to School Improvement Grant (SIG) Strong Program, acct. #2531-6300-56694-0028, with no change in funding amount.

**Funding Source:** School Improvement Grant (SIG) Strong Program  
Acct. # 2531-6300-56694-0028

**(Pages #11-15)**

3. The Superintendent approved Amendment #1 to Agreement #96279402 with Foundation for the Arts & Trauma, to change the funding account # from School Improvement Grant (SIG) Strong Program, acct # 2531-6279-56694-0028 to School Improvement Grant (SIG) Strong Program, acct. #2531-6300-56694-0028, with no change in funding amount.

**Funding Source:** School Improvement Grant (SIG) Strong Program  
Acct. # 2531-6300-56694-0028

4. The Superintendent approved Amendment #1 to Agreement #96279390 with Gesell Institute to change the funding account # from School Improvement Grant (SIG) Strong Program, acct # 2531-6279-56694-0028 to School Improvement Grant (SIG) Strong Program, acct. #2531-6300-56694-0028, with no change in funding amount.

**Funding Source:**                      **School Improvement Grant (SIG) Strong Program**  
**Acct. # 2531-6300-56694-0028**

**On a motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of 9 Agreements, as follows:**

#### **B. AGREEMENTS**

1. The Committee recommended APPROVAL of Amendment #7 to the Construction Manager Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and Giordano Construction Company, 1155 Main Street, Branford, CT related to the new Strong 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communications Magnet & Lab School (aka Obama School) increasing the compensation amount from \$36,706,152.00 by \$93,295.00 to \$36,799,447.00 for Out of Scope Changes to the CM agreement.

**Funding Source:**                      **Capital Projects #3078-17GG-58001**

**Discussion:** Mr. Goldson expressed concern about the Amendment, noting that that work was completed without Board of Education approval and was not vetted through the School Construction Committee. He asked why fireproofing the column was out of scope work versus in-scope work. Mr. Smith reported that fireproofing the column was unanticipated because the school is a prototype, never built before, so the expense was not part of the original Agreement. The expense is not reimbursed by the State.

Mr. Rodney Williams, interim chair of the Stewardship Committee expressed concern that the amendment was not previously reviewed prior to submission to the Board. He asked the committee to table the amendment pending further review by the Stewardship Committee.

**A motion by Mr. Goldson to table the Amendment was not seconded.**

2. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement # 96108356 with Area Cooperative Educational Services, (ACES), to decrease funding of \$579,075.00 from Operating Budget, acct. # 190-410-00-56694 and, to increase funding of \$900,000.00 by \$579,075.00 from Alliance Program, with no increase in the total funding of \$1,479,000.00.

**Funding Source:**                      **Alliance Program**  
**Acct. # 2547-6108-56694-0000 (\$1,479,000.00)**

3. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and National SAM Innovation Project, to provide online software tools for school leaders, coaching and other professional development support, from January 27, 2020 to June 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$25,800.00.

**Funding Source:**                      **Wallace Foundation Program**  
**Acct. #190-454-00-56694-0000**

**Ms. DeMaio requested a correction to the start dates for the grant Memorandum of Understanding, Items #4-9, noting that the correct start date is July 1, 2019 not July 1, 2020.**

4. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the New Haven Board of Education on behalf of Barnard Environmental Studies School and the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, to provide funding under the Youth Services Prevention Program to support afterschool programs, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 per year.
5. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the New Haven Board of Education on behalf of Brennan Rogers School of Communication and Media and the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, to provide funding under the Youth Services Prevention Program to support afterschool programs, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 per year.
6. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the New Haven Board of Education on behalf of L.W. Beecher Museum School of Arts & Sciences and the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, to provide funding under the Youth Services Prevention Program to support afterschool programs, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 per year.
7. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the New Haven Board of Education on behalf of Lincoln Bassett Community School and the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, to provide funding under the Youth Services Prevention Program to support afterschool programs, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 per year.
8. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the New Haven Board of Education on behalf of West Rock STREAM Academy and the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, to provide funding under the Youth Services Prevention Program to support afterschool programs, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 per year.
9. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the New Haven Board of Education on behalf of Wexler-Grant Community School and the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, to provide funding under the Youth Services Prevention Program to support afterschool programs, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 per year.

## II. DISCUSSION

- **December 2019 Financial Report:** Mr. Penn reviewed the report, noting key changes in the General Fund deficit forecast, which include:
  - Decrease in contractual services due to reclassification of expenses from General Fund to the grants where the expenses were originally budgeted.
  - Reduction in outlook on transportation expenses. Mr. Penn reported that this reduction was likely conservative. He indicated that invoices were carefully scrutinized and reduced as needed.
  - The budget was partially offset by a less favorable outlook for teacher and paraprofessional salaries as vacancies were filled in December.

In summary, Mr. Penn reported that total expenditures through December 31, 2019 total \$83.9 million, with General Fund expenditures incurred through December 31, 2019 at \$63.7 million or 33% of the adopted budget; and, Grant expenditures incurred through December 31, 2019 are \$21.2 million or 26.4% of the expected grant revenue.

- **Budget Deficit Update:** Dr. Kelly reviewed recommendations of the Budget Deficit Committee. Committee members discussed the process for reviewing and responding. Dr. Tracey reported that she will review the recommendations with the Executive Leadership Team and respond by the February 18, 2020 Finance & Operations Committee meeting.
- **Preliminary Discussion on use of 130 Orchard Street:** Mr. Pinto reviewed a proposal for interim use of the former Strong School at 130 Orchard Street. He explained that the move to the new Barack Obama School freed up approximately 30,000 square feet of space that has not been dedicated for other school use. The recommendations included use of the facility for records storage, office space for the Truancy Department and space for the Science Kit refurbishment, storage and distribution center. Dr. Therrien spoke about the need for space since they were moved from 80 Hamilton Street, and the impact of not having science kits for classroom instruction. A discussion ensued. Members were not in favor of altering classroom settings to accommodate storage and office space. Mr. Goldson also expressed concerned that the building use plan was not comprehensive, taking into consideration longer term needs and costs, as well as other properties.

**On a motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was unanimously voted to allow use of space at 130 Orchard Street (Strong School), for the school district's Science Kit Refurbishment, Storage and Distribution Center, from January 27, 2020 to June 30, 2020. The classroom space to be used cannot be significantly modified from classroom usage. The administration will present to the Board a proposal for use of surplus and warehouse space for Board review by April 2020.**

- **Head Start Budget Justification Narrative:** Ms. Gaffney reported on unspent funds from the grant that have carried over from last year. The Federal Government has allowed use of these funds in the current fiscal year. She noted that funds would be utilized to support staff education needs, opportunities for parent participation in training programs as well as, supplies for classrooms.