



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Haven, Connecticut

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 21, 2020

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Matthew Wilcox, Ms. Yessenia Rivera, Mr. Larry Conaway
Staff: Dr. Iline Tracey, Mr. Phillip Penn, Attorney Michael Pinto, Attorney Elias Alexiades, Ms. Patricia DeMaio, Ms. Michele Bonanno, Ms. Denise Duclos, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mr. Joseph Barbarotta, Ms. Lisa Mack, Ms. Kanicka Ingram-Mann, Dr. Paul Whyte, Dr. Jennifer Vasquez, Ms. Keisha Redd-Hannans; **Closed Captioner**

Call to Order: Mr. Wilcox called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Motion to Amend the Agenda: On a motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Ms. Rivera, the Agenda was amended to include an Agreement with Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C. to provide legal services for litigation regarding USDE OCR threat to withhold MSAP grant funding to the CIAC policy on transgender athletes and related expenses, unanimously approved by **Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

Mr. Wilcox also noted a change to the order of Agenda, allowing Ms. Bonanno to present the Agreement with American Evaluation first so that she is available to participate in a phone conference with OCR related to the MSAP funding issue.

Motion to Recommend Approval of Action Items: After presentation of the following items, Mr. Wilcox made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rivera, to **Recommend Approval of 1 Abstract, 6 Agreements and 1 Contract**, passed unanimously by **Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

I. ACTION ITEMS

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

1. **The Superintendent approved** an Agreement with Gateway Community College to provide American Public Policy course to students from High School in the Community, from August 26, 2020 to December 18, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$17,259.29.

Funding Source: Magnet School –HSC Carryover Program

Acct. #2517-6262-56694-0062

Presenter: Mr. Matthew Brown

Document Link: GatewayHSC

2. **The Superintendent approved** Amendment #1 to Agreement #95736533 with Delta-T Group to change funding account number from School Readiness Carryover Program, Acct. #2523-5736-56694 to School Readiness East Rock Program, Acct. #2523-6098-56901 with no change in funding amount.

Funding Source: School Readiness - East Rock Program

Acct. #2523-6098-56901-0043

Presenter: Ms. Catherine Harvey

Document Link: Delta-T

3. **The Superintendent approved** Amendment #1 to the Agreement with Marta Vazquez, to correct the “Compensation” section from “\$25 per hour for a total of 100 days” to “\$25 per hour for a total of 40 hours” with no change in total funding amount.

Funding Source: 2020-2021 Operating Budget

Acct. # 19041700-56697-0000

Presenter: Ms. Jessica Haxhi

Document Link: Vazquez

4. **The Superintendent approved** Amendment #1 to the Agreement with Robert Claudio, to correct the “Compensation” section from “\$25 per hour for a total of 100 days” to “\$25 per hour for a total of 40 hours”, and to change funding Acct # from 19041700-56694 to 19041700-56697 with no change in total funding amount.

Funding Source: 2020-2021 Operating Budget

Acct. # 19041700-56697-0000

Presenter: Ms. Jessica Haxhi

Document Link: Claudio

B. ABSTRACTS:

1. **Recommend Approval** of the Abstract, Child Day Care Grant, in the amount of \$1,033,933.07 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 presented by Ms. Duclos. **Funding Source:** CT Office of Early Childhood

C. AGREEMENTS:

1. **Recommend Approval** of an Agreement with American Evaluation Services, Inc. to conduct the annual evaluation of the Federal Magnet School Assistance Program grant from October 12, 2020, 2020 to June 20, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 presented by Ms. Bonanno.
Funding Source: Magnet 16-19 Carryover Program **Acct. #** 2517-6232-56680-0000
2. **Recommend Approval** of an Agreement with Sugehitted Rodriguez, LCSW to provide social and emotional supports for students attending St. Martin de Porres Academy, from September 22, 2020 to June 18, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$25,258.00 presented by Ms. DeMaio. **Funding Source:** ESSERF Non-Public – St. Martin Program ***Acct. #**2550-6342-56694-NP16
3. **Recommend Approval** of an Agreement with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company to provide professional development sessions to staff at Wexler Grant School on the Math Solutions program, from September 15, 2020 to March 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$32,400.00 presented by Dr. Tracey on behalf of Mr. Diah. **Funding Source:** Commissioner Network –Wexler Program **Acct. #**2547-6293-56694-0032
4. **Recommend Approval** of an Agreement with Frontline Education to provide software modules from Frontline Technologies to aid in recruiting of certified staff and to move to electronic processing of new hire forms, from October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$61,776.00 FY2021*(note new amount and start date); \$82,593.90 FY22; \$86,723.59 FY2023 and \$91,059.78 FY 2024 presented by Mr. Penn, Ms. Mack and Ms. Ingram -Mann.
Funding Source: Alliance Program (Pending Receipt of Funds) **Acct. #**2547-6105-56694-0442

***Agreement Corrected to reflect the following:** Mr. Penn explained that the start date will change from the September 1, 2020 to October 1, 2020. Frontline agreed to further pro-rate the fee, changing the original amount stated on the Agreement of \$69,565.25 to \$61,776.00 for FY21. He explained that the difference in pricing for FY22 is related to prorated fees for FY21.

5. **Recommend Approval** of an Agreement with Fuss & O’Neill for building reopening consulting services related to heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at multiple locations in New Haven, Connecticut during the COVID-19 pandemic from September 17, 2020 – June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$120,000.00 presented by Attorney Pinto.
Funding Source: ESSERF Grant / Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) **Acct. #**2550-6105-56694-0442

6. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of an Agreement with Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C. to provide legal services to the New Haven Board of Education to address litigation regarding USDE OCR threat to withhold MSAP grant funding to the CIAC policy on transgender athletes and related expenses, from September 21, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$99,000.00 presented by Attorney Pinto.

Funding Source: 2020-2021 Operating Budget **Acct. #** 190-47700-56696

Note - Addendum item: Attorney Pinto provided an overview of the issues related to the federal government's decision to withhold MSAP funding. He explained that the contractor is also representing the Groton Public School District on this issue, which has reduced New Haven's financial portion. Parameters of the suit have not been finalized at this time. Strategy and negotiations will be discussed during an Executive Session at the Special Board of Education meeting scheduled after the Finance & Operations meeting.

- D. **CONTRACT:** Mr. Wilcox noted that the following Contract was previously reviewed and tabled pending final City review:

1. Award of Contract #50532 for Tim's Enterprises, LLC for Painting and Repairs to Sound School from July 13, 2020 to September 30, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$124,320.00.

Funding Source: 2020-2021 Capital Projects

I. **DISCUSSION:**

- **Fiscal Year June 30, 2020 Unaudited Financial Report & August 2020 Monthly Report:** Mr. Penn presented the report, noting a modest \$865.00 surplus for FY20 due to lower costs during the Covid 19 shutdown. He reported that the Special Fund report is in progress. He also reviewed the August 2020 Monthly Report and answered Committee member questions.
- **Issuance and Use of a Purchase Card:** Mr. Penn reviewed details about the program which is currently used by the City. He will follow-up on questions related to insurance and bonding of the individual who holds the card for the District. A discussion ensued. Committee members expressed interest in further exploration of this program.
- **Eco Urban Status Update:** Attorney Pinto reviewed the detailed report and answered Committee member questions. He indicated that they will true up numbers in September.
- **Revised "Not to Exceed" Change Order Report:** Mr. Barbarotta requested that the report be deferred to the next meeting.
- **Legal Contract Expenditure Report:** Mr. Penn reviewed the report. Attorney Pinto answered questions related to Corporation Counsel Reimbursement and the Jeffrey Bagnell expense.

Adjournment: A motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Wilcox to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 p.m. passed unanimously by **Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Rivera, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DeMaio