



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Haven, Connecticut

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

Monday, March 18, 2024

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mr. Matthew Wilcox, Dr. Orlando Yarborough, (Ms. Yesenia Rivera, not present)  
**Staff:** Dr. Paul Whyte, Dr. Michael Finley, Ms. Keisha Redd-Hannans, Ms. Linda Hannans, Ms. Patricia DeMaio, Ms. Viviana Camacho, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Ms. Typhanie Jackson, Mr. Thomas Lamb, Ms. Michele Bonanno, Mr. Greg Baldwin, Ms. Vanessa Diaz-Valencia, Mr. Jamar Alleyne, Ms. Gemma Joseph Lumpkin, Mr. Christian Tabares, Attorney Elias Alexiades

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

**Summary of Motions:**

1. **Motion to Recommend Approval of Action Items:** A motion by Dr. Yarborough, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, to **Recommend Approval of 2 Abstracts, 1 Resolution, 9 Agreements and 1 Contract**, was approved pending corrections to documents, by Roll Call Vote: Dr. Yarborough, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; (Ms. Rivera, not present)
2. **Motion to Adjourn:** A motion by Dr. Yarborough, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. passed by Roll Call Vote: Dr. Yarborough, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; (Ms. Rivera not present).

**I. INFORMATION ONLY & ACTION ITEMS**

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

1. Purchase Order under PEPPM 2022 with CDW Government for renewal of Adobe Creative Cloud subscription from March 7, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$12,500.00.  
Funding Source: 2023-2024 Capital Projects Acct. # 3C22-2263-58704

**B. ABSTRACT:**

1. Every Child Art Experience Grant, in the amount of \$2,500.00 to provide tickets to “Sanctuary City” at Hartford Theater Works for 30 New Haven Academy students, from February 1,2024 to June 30, 2024 was presented by Mr. Baldwin.  
Funding Source: CT State Office of the Arts
2. Open Choice Program Grant in the amount of \$317,875.00, reflecting CT State Department of Education awards of \$3,000.00 per student for a total of 105 students from surrounding towns enrolled in non-Interdistrict Magnet Schools, Bishop Woods, Brennan-Rogers, Celentano, Roberto Clemente, Conte-West Hills, East Rock, F.A.M.E., John Martinez, Elm City Montessori, Barack H. Obama, and Wilbur Cross, from

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 was presented by Ms. Bonanno who explained that Interdistrict students enter through the lottery system.

Funding Source: CT State Department of Education

**C. RESOLUTION:** The following Resolution was presented by Ms. DeMaio who explained that the authorized signature resolution is required for receipt of a \$250,000.00 grant for HSC:

1. "Be it resolved that it is in the best interest of the New Haven Board of Education to enter into contracts with the CT Department of Agriculture.

In furtherance of this resolution, the President of the New Haven Board of Education is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the New Haven Board of Education.

the President of the New Haven Board of Education is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto.

The Secretary is authorized to impress the seal of the New Haven Board of Education on any such documents, amendment, rescission, or revision."

**Discussion:** In response to questions, Ms. DeMaio explained that the Resolution reflects the Board of Education Resolution for authorized signatures. Mr. Wilcox expressed concern that the Resolution does not contain language to indicate that the aforementioned documents must be approved by the Board of Education prior to signature. Ms. DeMaio will contact the CT Department of Agriculture to determine if language could be added.

#### **D. AGREEMENTS:**

1. Agreement with Caley Schwartz Psychological Service, LLC, to provide a student with a full program to support the development of core social deficits-functional life skills, self-care, functional use of language, and problem solving and, to provide a parent involvement and training component, was presented and corrected by Ms. Jackson. The service dates were changed to March 26, 2024 to June 14, 2024, and the total not to exceed amount was changed to \$45,936.00. Ms. Jackson will provide updated documents reflecting these changes.

Funding Source: IDEA Program

Acct. #2504-5034-56903-0490

2. Amendment #1 to Agreement with Learn Regional Service Center, (LEARN), to add a funding source and account number, splitting the total funding of \$122,000.00, with no change in funding amount as follows:

Funding Source:

School Improvement Grant, (SIG - Hillhouse) Program Acct #2531-6394-56694-0062 (\$90,000.00)

School Improvement Grant, (SIG-Hillhouse) C/O Program Acct. #2531-6426-56694-0062 (\$32,000.00)

Ms. DeNegre presented the amendment. Mr. Wilcox asked that language be added to reflect that the not to exceed amount.

**Agreements #3-6** for School Readiness COLA were presented by Ms. Diaz-Valencia. She indicated that the language in the Action Item listing should not state the "increase" or the number of spaces. Ms. DeMaio noted that the providers are receiving COLA for specific service and that the language should

- reflect the purpose. She agreed to remove the word “increase” from the Board of Education Action Items.
3. Agreement with Auntie Rose Child Day Care and Development Center, to provide a COLA for 46 School Readiness spaces, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$28,835.00.  
Funding Source: School Readiness Priority COLA Program Acct. #2523-6428-56697-0442
  4. Agreement with The Little Schoolhouse, to provide a COLA for 18 School Readiness spaces, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$14,028.00.  
Funding Source: School Readiness Priority COLA Program Acct. #2523-6428-56697-0442
  5. Agreement with Creative ME, to provide a COLA for 32 School Readiness spaces, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$24,939.00.  
Funding Source: School Readiness Priority COLA Program Acct. #2523-6428-56697-0442
  6. Agreement with Central CT Coast YMCA, to provide a COLA for 18 School Readiness spaces, from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$15,587.00.  
Funding Source: School Readiness Priority COLA Program Acct. #2523-6428-56697-0442
  7. Amendment 1 to Agreement with Winston Strategic Partners LLC to change funding source from 190-40700-56694 to funding source 270-40700-56697, with no change in funding amount of \$60,000.00 was presented by Ms. Bonanno on behalf of Mr. Middleton.  
Funding Source: Interdistrict Funds Acct. # 270-40700-56697
  8. Agreement with MAJ Kiernan Shippee as an instructor of the JROTC Program at Hillhouse High School from February 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$44,467.40 (BOE Portion: \$22,233.70), was presented by Ms. DeNegre on behalf of Mr. Billy.  
Funding Source: 2023-2024 Operating Budget Acct. #190-43362-50135  
**Discussion:** There were questions related to the payments for the service and that start date, which occurred prior to Board of Education approval. Staff will investigate and respond back to committee prior to the Board of Education meeting.
  9. Agreement with Crown Castle International Corp. to upgrade the Wide Area Network for New Haven Public Schools district in order to provide greater bandwidth and stability from March 11, 2024 to June 30, 2028 was presented by Mr. Lamb who explained the ERATE reimbursements as follows:  
2023-2024: \$544,500.00 (ERATE reimbursement to NHPS: \$54,450.00)  
2024-2025: \$544,500.00 (ERATE reimbursement to NHPS: \$54,450.00)  
2025-2026: \$544,500.00 (ERATE reimbursement to NHPS: \$54,450.00)  
2026-2027: \$544,500.00 (ERATE reimbursement to NHPS: \$54,450.00)  
2027-2028: \$544,500.00 (ERATE reimbursement to NHPS: \$54,450.00) in an amount not to exceed \$2,722,500.00. (total ERATE reimbursement to NHPS: \$272,250.00)  
Funding Source: 2023-2024 Capital Projects Acct. # 3C22-2263-58704  
**Discussion & Correction:** Mr. Lamb will send a memo to explain the ERATE amounts, which are reimbursements to the District. He will confirm the ERATE amounts prior to the Board of Education meeting.  
**Correction:** A correction was made to the ERATE amounts stated above. The motion to approve will now read:

**E. CONTRACTS**

1. Award of Contract 21922 with Auto Parts & Services Inc. to provide on call vehicle maintenance services for NHPS fleet, from March 18, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 was presented by Mr. Alleyne who indicated that the back-up documentation required correction. He will send the correction to Ms. DeMaio and Ms. Manning for posting on the website.

Funding Source: 2023-2024 Operating Budget Acct. # 190-47400-56665

**II. DISCUSSION**

- **Financial Report – February 2024:** Ms. Hannans reviewed the General Fund and Special Fund reports as of February 29, 2024, noting a projected year end deficit of \$4,076,740.00 in the General Fund budget. She reviewed mitigation efforts currently underway and explained that ARP ESSER funds are utilized to cover paras working as substitutes, bus monitors, extra cleaning costs due to extended day and after school programs, custodial and Saturday Academy programs that were built into the grant. A discussion ensued. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **Youth, Family & Community RFQ Process:** Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin and Mr. Tabares reviewed the RFQ process that will be utilized for community partners. They explained that community partners will now utilize the City's Bon Fire process for summer program RFQs and then transition to the City's new platform, Open Gov, for school year program RFQs. Committee members complimented the efforts to improve the process, noting greater transparency with the City's system. A discussion ensued. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **School Restroom Report:** Mr. Lamb and Mr. Alleyne presented the report which focused on Vandalism Issues, Single-Sex Restrooms and the Menstrual Equity Law, and approaches or strategies to be used to meet requirements. A discussion ensued about possible ways to address restroom cleanliness issues, as reported by a student group in an article in the New Haven Independent. Strategies to comply with the new Menstrual Equity law, and issues regarding Period Poverty were discussed. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **Series 3000 Polices – Discussion and Possible Action:**
  - **# 3516 Safety/#3517 Security of Building and Grounds:** Mr. Wilcox noted that an old version of the policy was posted; once notified, staff posted the correct version. As a result, Mr. Wilcox recommended no action at this meeting. The policy will be added to next agenda as Possible Action. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
  - **#3323 Procurement Policy:** Mr. Wilcox reported that staff has sent documents related to the City's Purchasing Policies and a comparison of the Board policy to the City's policy. He anticipates that the Procurement Policy will be added to the next agenda as Discussion and Possible Action. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**

**Adjournment:** A motion by Dr. Yarborough, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. passed by Roll Call Vote: Dr. Yarborough, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; (Ms. Rivera not present).

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DeMaio