



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Haven, Connecticut

NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday October 16, 2023

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Matthew Wilcox, Dr. Orlando Yarborough
Staff: Dr. Madeline Negrón, Dr. Paul Whyte, Dr. Michael Finley, Ms. Patricia DeMaio, Ms. Viviana Camacho, Ms. Linda Hannans, Ms. Keisha Redd-Hannans, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Ms. Michele Bonanno, Ms. Michelle Bonora, Ms. Gemma Joseph Lumpkin, Ms. Monica Morales, Ms. Lisa Flegler, Mr. Baron Young, Ms. Lise Rodriguez
Guest: Dr. Lola Garcia Blocker, Executive Director, Teach for America CT; Ms. Shekia John, TFA; Mr. James Haga, ThoughtExchange; Mr. Carlos Sosa-Lombardo, Community Services Administration, City of New Haven

Call to Order: Mr. Wilcox called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Summary of Motions:

1. **Motion to Recommend Approval of Action Items:** A motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Yarborough, to Recommend Approval of 2 Abstracts, 6 Agreements, 2 Purchase Orders and 4 Contracts, passed by Roll Call Vote: Dr. Yarborough, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.
2. **Motion to Adjourn:** A motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Yarborough to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m., passed by Roll Call Vote: Dr. Yarborough, 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 Mystic Aquarium to provide their Traveling Outreach Program focused on topics with which include sea animals, the sea shore, and coral reef communities, for Mauro-Sheridan students in grades 3-5, from October 9, 2023 to June 30, 204, in an amount not to exceed \$7,650.00.
Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Program Acct. # 2553-6399-56697-0019
2. Agreement with The Eli Whitney Museum to provide an after-school hands-on science program for Pre-K through 8th grade students at L.W. Beecher Magnet School, from October 26, 2023 to June 7, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$19,563.00.
Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Program Acct. #2553-6399-56694-0003
Correction: Ms. DeMaio corrected the description, removing “after-school” wording. This change will be reflected in documentation sent to Board of Education and on the website.
3. Agreement with Grinand Bare, LLC, to collaborate on and support the development of current leadership focused program at HSC; to provide one-on-one and small group coaching on leadership skills for students

and coaching for faculty members on supporting student leadership and, to provide ongoing organizational support with HSC leadership team regarding student leadership systems and structures, from November 15, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$19,200.00.

Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Program Acct. #2553-6399-56694-0066

4. Agreement with Dr. Hanan Hameen, to facilitate and support a Senegales cultural and language exchange and learning program for French classes and teachers at Hillhouse, Clemente and King-Robinson schools, which includes professional development for teachers, online exchanges in French, African dance and drumming classes for students, and coordination of an "Africa Me" day at Hillhouse, from October 24, 2023 to May 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$9,960.00.

Funding Source: Title I Carryover Program Acct. #2531-5265-56694-0062

5. Agreement with New Haven Reads, to provide academic on-site tutoring in reading and writing to students at Bishop Woods Schools, from October 24, 2023 to May 23, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Program Acct. #2553-6399-56694-0043

6. Agreement with Paraclete Partnerships to provide virtual leadership coaching in support of school leadership team growth and planning on racial equity and inclusion at HSC, from November 15, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Program Acct. # 2553-6399-56694-0066

B. ABSTRACTS:

1. Family Resource Center Grant for Brennan Rogers, Fair Haven, Hill Central, and Wexler-Grant Schools, for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$450,516.00 was presented by Ms. Joseph Lumpkin and Ms. Rodriguez, who provided an overview of the program.

Funding Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

2. Title I Consolidated Grant in the amount of \$11,488,745.00 of which \$11,373,131.61 is designated for public schools and \$115,613.39 is designated for non-public schools, from October 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 was presented by Ms. Camacho. Funding Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

C. AGREEMENTS:

1. Agreement with Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven, to provide basic literacy and ESOL services provided to adults from Greater New Haven, as part of the State Adult Education Cooperating Eligible Entity Grant, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$80,977.00 was presented by Ms. Bonora, who provided an overview of the agency's services and explained that the State funding is a pass-through the district.

Funding Source: State Adult Education Cooperating Eligible Entity Program:

Acct. # 2503-5018-50112 (\$38,614.00)

Acct. #2503-5018-50128 (\$42,363.00)

2. Non-Financial Memorandum of Understanding between New Haven Public Schools and the City of New Haven concerning the use of the gymnasium of 130 Orchard Street, New Haven, CT, as a warming shelter for persons experiencing homelessness, from October 15, 2023 to April 30, 2024 was presented by Attorney Alexiades and Mr. Sosa-Lombardo. The MOU is a draft, sent out prior to the committee meeting. Attorney Alexiades asked for any suggestions or changes prior to the Board of Education meeting. Ms. Hannans noted that she did not see and would like the opportunity to review. Attorney Alexiades will email a copy out

to the committee. The MOU is a no-cost, with the City of New Haven funding the additional resources required for the shelter. He noted that the other portions of the building would remain available for NHPS departments located there.

3. Agreement with Trifecta Ecosystems, Inc., to construct two large raised bed gardens for an outdoor learning area at Fair Haven School, and to provide lesson plans, vegetable transplants, automated irrigation and hand-tools, from November 14, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$75190.00 was presented by Ms. Morales. In response to questions about the service if funds are no longer available, she explained that the contractor is training staff to maintain the garden.
Funding Source: ARP ESSER III C/O Program Acct. #2553-6399-56694-0016
4. Agreement with Trifecta Ecosystems, Inc. d/b/a Farm2X, to provide year-round maintenance, support and upkeep for the aquaponic system, two hydroponic systems and raised beds in the courtyard area at Barnard School, from October 12, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$48,000.00 was presented by Ms. Bonanno on behalf of Ms. Skiba.
Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Program Acct. #2553-6399-56694-0002
5. Agreement with Teach For America Connecticut (TFA -CT), to provide 60 tutors for Troup, Brennan Rogers and Wexler Grant schools, from October 24, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$180,000.00 was presented by Ms. Redd-Hannans, who introduced Dr. Garcia-Blocker and Ms. John. They provided an overview of the program and answered committee member questions.
Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Program Acct. #2553-6399-56694-0066
6. Agreement with Elm City Montessori Charter School, to provide education to students, employ and evaluate staff, and provide leadership for the general school operations, from October 24, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$1,758,206.00 was presented by Ms. Bonanno, who explained that the Agreement was the financial portion of the arrangement with the State regrading this charter school. Ms. Bonanno explained that the district pays \$14,838.00 per student; the charter school enrolled increased from 300 to 306 students for the year, which represents a \$365,000.00 increase over last year.
Discussion: Mr. Wilcox asked that Ms. Bonanno prepare a memo outlining the costs and increases for the Board of Education. Funding Source: 2023-2024 Operating Budget Acct. #190-40-00-56694

D. PURCHASE ORDERS:

1. Purchase Order under TIPS Contract 230105 with Fulcrum Management Solutions Inc. dba ThoughtExchange to provide a collaborative engagement platform from November 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$33,840.00 was presented by Ms. Redd-Hannans. She introduced Mr. Haga to provide an overview of the program and to answer committee member questions.
Funding Source: ARP ESSER III C/O Program Acct. # 2553-6399-56697-0105
2. Purchase Order with Frontline Technologies Group, LLC to provide Applicant tracking, absence management for the Human Resources Dept from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$71,621.05 was presented by Ms. Flegler who explained that the district expanded usage by adding a program to the platform, which reflects the increase over last year. However, she explained that the new program provides unlimited access.
Funding Source: 2023-2024 Operating Budget Acct. # 19045100-56694

E. CONTRACTS:

1. Award of Contract 21883 to New Haven Pictograph to provide audio-visual services districtwide for various events and activities from October 15, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 was reviewed by committee on behalf of Mr. Alleyne.
Funding Source: 2023-2024 Capital Projects Acct. #3C24-2461-58101
2. Award of Contract 21878 to Encore Fire Protection for On Call Kitchen Suppression Repair services from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 was presented by Mr. Young.
Funding Source: 2023-2024 Food Service Budget Acct #: 25215200-56623
3. Award of Contract 21880 to Precision Food Service for On Oven and Steam services on Food Service equipment from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 was presented by Mr. Young. Funding Source: 2023-2024 Food Service Budget Acct #: 25215200-56623
4. Award of Contract to Fresh Point to provide the district with a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$161,000.00 was presented by Mr. Young.
Funding Source: 2023-2024 Food Service Budget Acct #: 25215200-55587

II. DISCUSSION:

- **September 2023 Financial Report:** Ms. Hannans reviewed the General Fund and Special Fund report as of September 30, 2023. The report anticipates a \$4,786,467.00 General Fund deficit and Ms. Hannans reviewed current mitigation strategies underway. Further mitigation strategies will be discussed and considered. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **FY 2024 Budget Deficit Mitigation Progress:** Ms. Hannans reviewed the mitigation efforts as part of the September 2023 Report. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **Update and timeline for hiring positions under the MOU with City:** For the position of Labor Attorney, Ms. Flegler reported that there was 1 internal applicant and that the interview process will begin on October 18, 2023; the Purchasing Agent position Bi-Lingual Examiner positions are both out for Civil Service testing. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**
- **Update F&O Climate Change Resolution Items:** Deferred to upcoming meeting.
- **Series 3000 Policies:** Mr. Wilcox reported that a meeting to read through policies will be scheduled. **No motion was made and no vote was taken.**

Adjournment: A motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Yarborough to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m., passed by Roll Call Vote: Dr. Yarborough, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. DeMaio