



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Haven, Connecticut

**NEW HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

4:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order: 4:32 p.m.

Adjournment: 5:22 p.m.

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

**Staff:** Dr. Iline Tracey, Mr. Phillip Penn, Mr. Michael Pinto, Ms. Patricia DeMaio, Ms. Keisha-Redd  
Hannans, Dr. Richard Therrien

**MINUTES**

- I. Legislative Agenda: Mr. Penn reviewed a presentation on the Legislative Agenda to date. He explained that the New Haven delegation recommended that the District factor into its plans a projected \$60 million deficit at that State, **making** it unlikely educational grant programs will **be increased** beyond current projected levels. In addition, the legislative session is a short one and it is unlikely that they will have opportunity to introduce new legislation. To increase likelihood of support from other delegations, they recommended that the District target incremental changes that would benefit both New Haven and other communities. Given **their** input, Mr. Penn explained that the District is seeking a change in the State statute governing the Alliance Grant, which prohibits supplanting. If a change is made, the District would utilize the grant to purchase new Mathematics curriculum, deploy new/upgraded technology to classrooms, and explore new methods of early childhood education. Mr. Penn also reported that they will work with representatives from the Meriden and Vernon Public School Districts to learn how they structure the Alliance grant application to cover costs. **Prior to the public hearing, district representatives also met** briefly with the Commissioner of Education. **He reported that the** Lobbyist for New Haven and the New Haven Advocates **provided testimony at the hearing.** Committee members discussed the need to encourage more community participation in public hearings **in the future.**

Mr. Wilcox reminded that committee that a Special Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to review the 2020-2021 budget request.

- II. **Action Items - Agreements: On a motion by Mr. Conaway, seconded by Ms. Rivera, the Committee recommended approval of the following items, as amended for item # 3, passed unanimously:**

- 1. The Committee recommend **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #96108452 with Area Cooperative Educational Services, (ACES), to correct funding amount of \$249,290.00 as stated on the December 2, 2019 agenda, to \$290,290.00, the amount listed on the Agreement.

**Funding Source: Alliance Program**

**Acct. # 2547-6108-56694-0420**

- 2. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #96108452 with Dr. June Levy, to change the Funding Acct. # from School Improvement Grant, Acct. # 2531-6276-

56694-0048 to School Improvement Grant, Acct. # 2531-6297-56694-0048, with no change in funding amount.

**Funding Source: School Improvement Grant (SIG) – Celentano Program  
Acct. # 2531-6297-56694-0048**

The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and Ellen Kramer, to develop and maintain the Regional Science Materials Resource Center Partnership, from February 10, 2020 to June 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$23,000.00.

**Funding Source: 2019-2020 Operating Budget – Science Resource Center  
Acct. #1000-414-56694-0083**

**Correction Noted:** Ms. DeMaio reported that the amount listed on the original Action Item Agenda was incorrectly stated. Per the Agreement, the contractor will receive \$21,084.10 after taxes on an Agreement total of \$23,000.00. **Discussion:** In response to questions about plans to hire staff rather use a contract employee, Dr. Therrien explained that he will work to create a position for the new school year. Due to the delay in finding a location for the Science Resource Center, he had to work quickly to hire for the Center move and operations. In response to a request for an action plan, a discussion ensued about the process for requesting information or reports from staff. Members concurred that requests for information should be made through the Superintendent.

### III. Discussion:

- **January 2020 Budget Report and Budget Deficit Update:** Mr. Penn presented the January 2020 Budget Report and reviewed key changes in the deficit forecast. He reported total expenditures through January 31, 2020 are \$113.8 million: General Fund at \$86.4 million or 45.9% of budget and Special Funds at \$27.4 million or 33.9% of expected grant revenue. The deficit forecast increased in the salary line for teachers and administrative/management due to filling of vacancies. However, the contractual services outlook and utilities outlook improved. Mr. Penn reported that the district continues to work on mitigation efforts, which include: improved coding to ensure expenses are correctly coded to appropriate grants; further reductions in transportation; a hiring freeze on General Fund positions; savings on turnover in certified staff and potential further savings in utilities, subs and overtime.