



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Haven, Connecticut

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

Monday, February 3, 2020

4:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order: 4:34 p.m.

Adjournment: 7:22 p.m.

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

**Staff:** Dr. Iline Tracey, Mr. Phillip Penn, Mr. Michael Pinto, Ms. Patricia DeMaio, Ms. Typhanie Jackson, Ms. Keisha Redd Hannans, Dr. Paul Whyte, Mr. Marquelle Middleton, Ms. Denise Duclos, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Ms. Carolyn Ross Lee, Ms. Sabina Sitaru, Mr. Michael, Ms. Gail Sharry, Ms. Gemma Joseph Lumpkin, Mr. Joseph Barbarotta

**MINUTES**

**A. AGREEMENTS**

1. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of a Grant Administration Agreement, by and between the New Haven Board of Education and Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Program, Inc., to serve as Fiscal Agent for a grant from the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund, in the amount of \$141,500.00 for professional development training conducted by the Winter’s Group on Intercultural Diversity Inventory and design of a learning plan for New Haven Public Schools, from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

2. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #96251425 with Coppola Photography to increase funding of \$33,530.00 by \$1,500.00 to \$35,030.00 to translate the Magnet “Tips to Apply” video in Spanish.

**Funding Source:** Magnet 17-22 Central Office Program  
**Acct. #2517-6251-56694-0000**

The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and Public Good, to develop, design, and produce creative content for the 2020 NHPS School Enrollment Campaign, from December 9, 2019 to April 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$58,937.00.

**Funding Source:** Magnet 17-22 Program  
**Acct. # 2517-6251-56694-0000**

***Discussion:** Mr. Goldson asked that staff find measurements to assess which forms of advertisement are most effective for the Choice & Enrollment Campaign. He also asked if the new banners can be reused as a cost saving measure for the future. Mr. Middleton explained that the banners are used outdoors and are subject to weather conditions, which impact the quality.*

3. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #96211364 with Great Minds PBC, formerly known as Great Minds, LLC, to change the service start date from November 5, 2019 to September 5, 2019, with no change in funding amount.

**Funding Source:** Commissioners Network – Clinton Avenue Program

**Acct. # 2547-6211-56694-0006**

4. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #96211369 with PBL Work, formerly Buck Institute for Learning, to change the service start date from November 5, 2019 to October 1, 2019, with no change in funding amount.  
**Funding Source: Commissioners Network – Clinton Avenue Program**  
**Acct. # 2547-6211-56694-0006**
  
5. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #95034347/#91320829 with Area Cooperative Educational Services, (ACES), to decrease funding of \$279,370.00 from General Fund acct #190-494-00-56694 and to fund \$279,370.00 from Alliance Program, acct. #2547-6108-56694-0420, with no change in total funding amount.  
**Funding Source: IDEA Program**  
**Acct. #2504-5034-56903-0490 (\$400,380.00)**  
**Priority School Program**  
**Acct. # 2579-5319-56694-0000 (\$500,000.00)**  
**Alliance Program**  
**Acct. # 2547-6108-56694-0420 (\$279,370.00)**
  
6. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and Great Schools Partnership, Inc., to provide professional development to for staff in secondary Career and Technical Education programs to establish common course expectations and scoring criteria, co-development of common assessments and improvement in instructional strategies, from January 28, 2020 to June 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$96,800.00.  
**Funding Source: Carl D. Perkins Program**  
**Acct. # 2508-5080-56901-0000**
  
7. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and Yale University to provide professional development and support on School Planning and Management Teams, Student and Staff Support Teams, and ongoing technical assistance to staff at six Title I schools: Celentano, Clemente, Hillhouse, Lincoln Bassett, Truman and Wexler/Grant, from February 11, 2020 to June 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.  
**Funding Source: Title I Program**  
**Acct. # 2531-5256-56694-0000**
  
8. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and State of Connecticut/CEN, to provide internet services for all schools and administrative office in the New Haven Public School District from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$48,000.00.  
**Funding Source: 2020-2021 Operating Budget**  
**Acct. # 190-47200-52265**
  
9. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** an Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and PowerSchool Group, LLC, provide PowerSchool Server warranty and updating/refresh maintenance, March 2, 2020 to June 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$58,301.10.  
**Funding Source: Capital Projects**  
**Acct. # 3C19-1986-49114**

10. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** an Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and Crown Castle International Corporation to provide leased fiber circuit WAN Ethernet Services, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$559,560.00.  
**Funding Source:**       **2020-2021 Operating Budget**  
                                  **Acct. # 190-47200-52265**
11. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #2 to Agreement # 96273412 with Little Scientists to increase the number of one hour sessions from 51 at Davis by 100 (60 sessions at Martinez and 40 sessions at Columbus), for a total of 151 sessions, and to increase funding of \$8,925.00 by \$17,500.00 to \$26,425.00.  
**Funding Source:**       **21<sup>st</sup> Century Program**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-6273-56694-0009 (\$8,925.00)**  
                                  **State After School Program**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-6205-56694-0008 (\$10,500.00)**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-6205-56694-0041 (\$ 7,000.00)**
12. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #2 to Agreement # 96273406 with Arte, Inc., to increase the number of sessions by 30 sessions for Hill Central for a total of 264 sessions and to increase funding of \$54,800.00 by \$6,000.00 to \$60,800.00.  
**Funding Source:**       **State After School Program**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-6205-56694-0007 (\$6,000.00)**  
                                  **Extended School Hours Program**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-5326-56694-0013 (\$6,800.00)**  
                                  **Title I Program**  
                                  **Acct. # 2531-5208-56694-0032 (\$10,000.00)**  
                                  **Acct. # 2531-5208-56694-0016 (\$10,000.00)**  
                                  **Acct. # 2531-5208-56694-0015 (\$10,000.00)**  
                                  **Acct. #2531-5208-56694-0042 (\$10,000.00)**  
                                  **21<sup>st</sup> Century Program**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-6273-56694-0009 (\$ 8,000.00)**
13. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment # 2 to Agreement # 95326409 with Cross Sector Consulting, to increase the number of evaluation sites from 6 schools by 4 to 10 schools, and to increase funding of \$24,000.00 by \$5,000.00 to \$29,000.00.  
**Funding Source:**       **21<sup>st</sup> Century Program**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-6325-56694-0000 (\$5,000.00)**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-6243-56694-0000 (\$4,000.00)**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-6273-56694-0000 (\$5,000.00)**  
                                  **Extended School Hours Program**  
                                  **Acct. #2579-5326-56694-0000 (\$10,000.00)**  
                                  **State Afterschool Program**  
                                  **Acct. # 2579-6205-56694-0000 (\$5,000.00)**
14. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #95384309 with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford to decrease the number of School Readiness spaces from 164 full day by 5 spaces to 159 full day spaces, and to decrease funding from \$1,463,536.00 by \$18,591.67 to \$1,444,944.67.  
**Funding Source:**       **School Readiness Program**  
                                  **Acct. # 2523-5384-56697-0442**

15. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #95384352 with Creating Kids at the Connecticut Children's Museum, to increase the number of School Readiness spaces from 8 spaces by 1 space for a total of 9 spaces, and to increase funding of \$48,000.00 by \$3,000.00 to \$51,000.00.  
**Funding Source: School Readiness Program**  
**Acct. # 2523-5384-56697-0442**
16. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #2 to Agreement #95384312 with Friends Center for Children, to increase the number of School Readiness spaces from 49 spaces by 5 spaces for a total of 54 spaces, and to increase funding of \$437,276.00 by \$18,591.67 to \$455,867.67.  
**Funding Source: School Readiness Program**  
**Acct. # 2523-5384-56697-0442**
17. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to an Agreement with Columbus School Pre-K, to decrease the number of School Readiness spaces from 40 spaces by 1 space for a total of 39 spaces, and to decrease funding of \$240,000.00 by \$3,000.00 to \$237,000.00.  
**Funding Source: School Readiness Program**  
**Acct. # 2523-5384-56697-0442**
18. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to an Agreement with East Rock School Pre-K to decrease the number of School Readiness part day spaces from 40 by 2 spaces to 38 part day spaces, and to decrease funding of \$300,000.00 by \$4,500.00 to \$295,500.00.  
**Funding Source: School Readiness Program**  
**Acct. #2523-5384-56697-0442**
19. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to an Agreement with Nathan Hale School Pre-K to increase the number of School Readiness space from 22 school day spaces, by 1 space to 23 school day spaces, and to increase funding of \$258,000.00 by \$3,000.00 to \$261,000.00.  
**Funding Source: School Readiness Program**  
**Acct. #2523-5384-56697-0442**
20. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #95384320 with United Community Nursery School, to decrease the number of School Readiness spaces from 20 full day spaces by 3 spaces to 17 full day spaces, and decrease the number of part day spaces from 10 by 4 to 6 part day spaces, and to decrease funding of \$223,480.00 by \$20,155.00 to \$203,325.00.  
**Funding Source: School Readiness Program**  
**Acct. #2523-5384-56697-0442**
21. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #95384321 with Yale New Haven Hospital Day Care Center, to increase the number of School Readiness spaces from 27 full day by 3 spaces to 30 full day spaces, and to increase funding of \$240,948.00 by \$11,155.00 to \$252,103.00.  
**Funding Source: School Readiness Program**  
**Acct. #2523-5384-56697-0442**
22. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of Amendment #1 to Agreement #95384316 with New Haven YMCA Youth Center, to decrease the number of School Readiness spaces from 45 full day by 14 spaces to 31 full day spaces, and to decrease funding of \$401,580.00 by \$52,056.62 to \$349,523.38.  
**Funding Source: School Readiness Program**  
**Acct. # 2523-5384-56697-0442**

**Discussion Items 15-23:** Mr. Wilcox noted a net loss of 15 spaces. He asked if attempts were made to fill those spaces and if funding for those spaces had to be returned to the State. Ms. Duclos explained that the district attempted to fill the spaces at two alternative sites, one in Fair Haven and the other in West Rock. However, the State rejected the sites. She explained that the district may need to return unspent funds this year, which will impact funding for next year as the State determines funding based on a March report.

## B. CONTRACTS

1. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Award of Contract #70195019 to the sole bidder, Gabrielli Truck Sales, LTD, 401 Old Gate Lane, Milford, CT for the purchase of one or more 2020 Hino 195 refrigerated box truck, in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00.  
**Funding Source:**     **Food Service Fund**  
                                   **Acct. #2521-5200-5858698**     **(\$70,000.00)**  
                                   **Food Service Capital**  
                                   **Acct. #3C191993**     **(\$10,000.00)**  
                                   **Citywide Rolling Stock**  
                                   **Acct. # 3C202001**     **(\$10,000.00))**
  
2. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Award of Contract #21637-1-2 to the sole bidder, Select Fence and Guardrail, LLC, 39 McDermont Road, North Haven, CT, for On Call Fence Repairs for NHPS for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.  
**Funding Source:**     **Capital Projects**  
                                   **Acct. #3C17-1592-58702**
  
3. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Award of Contract #21641-1-2 to the lowest bidder, The Tim's Enterprise, LLC, 39 Myrtle Avenue, Ansonia, CT for On Call Flooring/Carpeting/VCT Services for NHPS for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.  
**Funding Source:**     **2020-2021 Operating Budget**  
                                   **Acct. #190-47400-56624**
  
4. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of a Renewal of an Award of Contract #21624-1-2 to Precision Cutting Services, LLC, 145 Stuyvesant Avenue, New Haven, CT for On Call Tree and Stump Removals for NHPS for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.  
**Funding Source:**     **Capital Projects**  
                                   **Acct. # 3C202071-58101**
  
5. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of an Award of Contract #50500-1-2 to the lowest bidder, Total Lighting Service, LLC, 24 Wooster Avenue, Waterbury, CT for On Call Emergency Lighting Service for NHPS for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.  
**Funding Source:**     **Capital Projects**  
                                   **Acct. # 3C17-1779-58101**
  
6. The Committee recommended **APPROVAL** of a Renewal of an Award Contract #21632A-1-2 with Tucker Mechanical, 367 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT for On Call HVAC Repairs for NHPS for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00.  
**Funding Source:**     **2020-2021 Operating Budget**  
                                   **Acct. #190-47400-56624**

**Discussion:**

- **Forensic Audit:** Mr. Penn noted that the City's transition plan recommended a forensic audit of the Board of Education. He discussed concerns, noting lack of justification. Mr. Penn reviewed a memo he sent to Board of Education members, explaining that a forensic audit is usually conducted when there are suspicions of fraud or other malfeasance. To date, he has not been made aware of any fraudulent activity. In addition, he noted that financial operations are annually audited by the City's Internal Audit Staff, by RSM, an external auditor, and by the State and Federal Government, to ensure grant funds are expended in compliance with grant purposes. Auditors have not raised concerns about the district's financial operations. He also noted that a forensic audit would cost in excess of \$100,000, in addition to the \$250,000 already spent on the annual audit through the City of New Haven. A discussion ensued. Members concurred that unless there are specific concerns about fraudulent activity, a forensic audit is not recommended. Mr. Goldson asked that the City audit, which is currently available on the City's website, be made available on the district's website.
- **Budget Presentation:** Mr. Penn provided an overview of the draft proposed budget for 2020-2021, as well the timeline for completing the final draft. He noted that the District has run a deficit budget for the last six of nine years, creating deficit budgets that do not keep up with inflation. In addition to flat funding, other major factors creating deficits include the loss of \$16 million grant revenue; contractual raises; inflationary pressure on commodities and other purchased material; price escalation in transportation and service agreements; and increased costs for Special Education out-of-district placement with a higher hurdle rate for reimbursement from the State under the Excess Cost Grant. Mr. Penn outlined proposed new spending which is not included in the proposed draft budget total, including hiring 2.5 FTEs for EL support; hiring a professional grant writer to generate income, a Director of Facilities and Maintenance and increased funding to building maintenance budgets, among other items noted in the presentation. He reported that he is currently reviewing recommendations proposed by the Budget Mitigation Committee and is also working on other proposals, including identifying new streams of income, staff attrition strategies and furloughs. A discussion ensued. Mr. Goldson commended the thoroughness of the presentation and asked that new slides be added, as well as a call to action for the community. He recommended adding: a slide comparing our cost per student with costs in other districts; a slide breaking down State and Federal grants and what resources received by other school districts; a slide depicting the budget increases that other districts experience compared to ours. Mr. Goldson also indicated that a special meeting of the Board would be necessary to review the final budget draft.
- **Increasing the Number of Magnet School Seats for New Haven Residents:** Dr. Tracey, Mr. Middleton and Mr. Penn reviewed a staff report, analyzing the current state of the Interdistrict Magnet program enrollment in an attempt to increase the number of seats available to New Haven residents, and the associated financial impact. Staff recommended a 69/31 split for the upcoming school year. After discussion, committee members concurred. A motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mr. Goldson, to follow staff recommendation for a 69/31 split for the 2020-2021 school year, passed unanimously.