

Friday, May 11, 2018

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held May 11, 2018, at Bridgeport City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. Committee members present were Chair Jessica Martinez, Dennis Bradley and Chris Taylor. Board members Hernan Illingworth, Maria Pereira, John Weldon and Joseph Sokolovic were in attendance.

Supt. Dr. Aresta Johnson was present.

Mr. Taylor moved to approve the committee's minutes of January 9, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and unanimously approved.

The next item was on the amendment to the existing Xerox agreement.

Ms. Pereira said the agreement could not be extended under state statute and the city charter. She said there could be no more than a three-year contract and the matter should be put out to bid.

Ms. Martinez noted the bus agreement had been extended beyond three years. She said the matter should go out to bid.

Mr. Taylor moved a "*motion to put Xerox out to bid.*" The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and unanimously.

The next item was an RFQ for E-Rate vendor. Jeff Postolowski, IT director, said he believed it met all the board's expectations for the vendor. He said the item needed to be motioned to put to the full board.

In response to a question, Mr. Postolowski said in order to be in compliance with the rules this is the appropriate way to handle this.

He said it's very difficult to change vendors because it is a massive undertaking.

Mr. Taylor moved "*to approve.*" The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley

Ms. Pereira said the Xerox contract had to go out to bid because it had been over three years. Elizabeth Maurer, manager of budget and financial reporting, said the purchasing agent has the authority to use the state contract. She said the district was 37 months into a 60-month contract.

Ms. Maurer said Xerox approached the district with pretty much a no-cost proposal. It is supplying 252 multifunction devices in all of the schools with the latest technology. She we have no money and the company has come with an offer to give teachers and children brand-new equipment with cutting edge technology.

Ms. Maurer said the savings are \$30,000 to \$60,000.

Ms. Pereira said we have to go out to bid.

Mr. Weldon said the purchasing department has found a way to do this legally.

Ms. Maurer said there was an e-mail from Bernd Tardy that allows the purchasing agent to piggyback onto state contracts. She said the state had done all the bidding and vetting of the vendors.

Ms. Pereira said there had been a lot of problems with the staff complaining about the copiers.

Mr. Postolowski said he understood the concern about going out to bid, but the state does an extremely good job at these contracts. He said you can't get rates like that anywhere else. He noted they're willing to replace the entire fleet and give the district PaperCut, which is a product that finally gives us the ability to control the flow of paper and toner to help to control those expenditures. He said he negotiated the ability to leverage that to our laser printers. He said it was a very good contract.

Mr. Postolowski said in the state the only players in this area are Ryan Business Systems, Xerox, Canon & Ricoh. He said they're all kind of floating in the same area. He noted that the refresh includes all new equipment. He said it didn't hurt to get all new equipment and then do an RFQ for the next cycle.

The discussion returned to the E-Rate proposal. Mr. Taylor noted he had to depart soon; he had provided advance notice to the committee that he had to leave at 6:15.

The motion to approve the RFQ for the E-Rate vendor was unanimously approved.

Mr. Postolowski said the single most important thing on the agenda was the next item on putting the E-Rate out. He said that is our funding for next year and it has to be approved and go to the full board.

Ms. Pereira said she did not receive that in advance of the meeting.

Ms. Postolowski said every year the federal government pays pretty much all of our bills for telecommunications and related things. He said it is what we use as our funding and we have to approve it.

Ms. Pereira said the request was asking the board to approve \$2 million. Mr. Postolowski said the matter could be approved or denied at the full board. He said it is not spending \$2 million; this is us saying that USAC is paying for that stuff and the board has to approve that.

Mr. Bradley moved to "*approve resolution for schools and libraries universal services E-Rate for 2018-19.*" The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously approved.

Mr. Postolowski said we can answer any questions the board has about it.

Mr. Taylor left the meeting and there was no longer a quorum of members.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

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