

Monday, November 8, 2021

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held November 8, 2021, at Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science and Technology Education Center, 60 St Stephens Road, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. when a quorum was achieved. Present were members Chair John Weldon, Vice Chair Bobbi Brown, Secretary Joseph Lombard, Joseph Sokolovic, and Sybil Allen.

Superintendent Michael J. Testani was present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/AGENDA:

The superintendent acknowledged James Kuhn, a physical education at Columbus School, who completed 35 years of service, who will retire soon, and Claire Mastromonaco, a special education teacher, who recently retired after 23 years of service.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next agenda item was on a contract with RYASAP for a learner engagement and attendance program. Mr. Weldon noted the board received the proposed contract.

Carli Rocha-Reaes, director of school counseling and parent parentships, said learner engagement and attendance is a state initiative to address student absenteeism and engagement resulting from the pandemic. A budget was developed with the federal stimulus funds. The largest component is for home visits, with the state Department of

Education provided training to either community-based organizations or district staff. She said the district is partnering with RYASAP for the home visits.

Ms. Rocha-Reaes said home visitors will fill out and state and district forms. Referrals will come from the district's student success teams.

Nadira Clarke, director of grants, was present. In response to a question, Ms. Clarke said the dispute resolution process was developed from a template designed by the city attorney in all contracts that require community-based organizations. Mr. Weldon said the city in general is trying to get away from binding arbitration because their attorneys are more skilled in general law than niche areas taken to binding arbitration.

Mr. Sokolovic asked the provision about legal fees to be paid be looked at going forward to prevent frivolous suits.

Mr. Sokolovic moved "*to approve the contract as it stands.*" The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

Ms. Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the board on November 22, 2021