

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held September 15, 2021, at Central High School, 1 Lincoln Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m. Present were members Chair John Weldon, Vice Chair Bobbi Brown, Joseph Sokolovic, Sybil Allen, and Albert Benejan.

Superintendent Michael J. Testani was present.

The first agenda item was on an Aquaculture School's field trip to the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

David Henry, principal of Aquaculture, said the proposed trip was a continuing tradition as part of the FFA membership. He said Covid protocols are in place, along with buses and chaperones, for the trip next Tuesday. There are 22 students currently signed up, with more anticipated. There will be one bus with one chaperone to ten students.

In response to a question, Supt. Testani said the bus company will use keep windows open to circulate air and masks will be worn. He said a second bus could be considered if one is available.

Mr. Benejan said he was worried about students becoming infected on the trip and then returning to school with Covid. The superintendent said we could request children be tested, but it cannot be required. Mr. Henry said he believed parents were comfortable with the safety protocols being

used at the school. The superintendent said parents could be encouraged to have their children tested after the trip.

Mr. Benejan moved “*to approve this field trip.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on acceptance of school construction projects: Harding High, Central High renovation, and Skane Center roof replacement.

Larry Schilling, program manager for the city school construction office, said the board needs to accept the projects, the superintendent signs the paperwork, and it is then submitted to the state.

Mr. Schilling said the approximate expenditure are \$108 million for Harding; Central \$90.3 million; and Skane \$520,000. Central(\$2.7 million) and Harding(\$1 million) are over budget. Skane is \$500,000 under budget. He said the city’s share for Central and Harding was a little over 21 percent.

In response to a question, Mr. Schilling said all punch lists are complete.

Ms. Brown moved to “*approve/accept the new Harding High School, state project 015-0173N.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

Mr. Benejan moved “*to approve and accept the Central High School state project 015-0174EA.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and unanimously approved.

Ms. Allen moved to *“approve and accept the Skane Center roof replacement, state project 015-0179RR.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Benejan and unanimously approved.

The next item was on the data warehouse contract.

Mr. Weldon said this was previously discussed and additional information was requested.

P. J. Karaffa, head of data management, said he submitted information to the board members’ packets on the decision-making and information on the potential suppliers. He said a team of six looked at the various options. He discussed a score sheet that was used for the various vendors. The firm selected was Decision Ed.

Mr. Sokolovic discussed the prices on the scoresheet and noted other vendors had much higher prices. Mr. Karaffa said Decision Ed was specific to K-12 and had experience in K-12, which was an advantage over other companies. He said Decision Ed has been in business for about 15 years.

Ms. Allen moved *“to award the data warehouse contract as presented by Mr. Karaffa to Decision Ed.”* The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and unanimously approved.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the board on September 27, 2021

