

Thursday, May 16, 2019

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held May 16, 2019, at Bridgeport City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Present were members Chair Joseph Sokolovic and Jessica Martinez. Board members Maria Pereira and LaMar Kennedy arrived subsequently as noted.

Ms. Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was discussion and possible action on expenditures billed to the parent engagement budget.

Assistant Superintendent Janet Brown-Clayton reported Nadira Clarke said the expenditures listed for security at two schools are put in there just to meet the requirements for the line item and they are not charged for that.

Mr. Sokolovic said we could look at the report and if we have any questions it can be put on next month's agenda.

Ms Pereira arrived at the meeting.

The next agenda item was an update on the Parent Convention. Ms. Brown-Clayton said Albert Benejan and Tammy Bogdanyi are working diligently and keeping her on her toes about the convention. All monies have been

accounted for. She said the contract has been signed and she is awaiting the certificate of liability insurance from the attorney.

Mr. Benejan was recognized.

Ms. Pereira said that Mr. Benejan should not be allowed to speak for his threatening and disruptive behavior at a special meeting where the police ordered him to leave and a police report was filed against him.

Mr. Benejan said everyone is working on the convention. He asked that more phone blasts be sent to parents. He said principals needed to have the forms in the main offices.

Mr. Sokolovic suggested the flyer be posted on the front door of the schools.

Ms. Brown-Clayton said she would do phone blasts on the Tuesday and the Saturday before the convention.

The next agenda item was on the final tally of parent engagement expenditures by school.

Ms. Brown-Clayton reported that the schools that not spent \$250 or more should not include Blackham because a parent was ill and did not submit the forms on time, but the activity took place.

Mr. Sokolovic said the report indicated a marked improvement over last year. He said most schools were over 95 or 98 percent. Ms. Martinez said there were only two schools under 95 percent.

Ms. Brown-Clayton explained Columbus actually has only \$42 unspent as of the latest update.

Ms. Pereira said she doesn't take issue with any school that had anything less than \$100 unspent. She noted Batalla had not spent \$500. She said Barnum had left a lot of money unspent.

Mr. Sokolovic said he puts the focus on percentages because the larger schools require larger expenses for things like food and flyers.

Ms. Pereira said she was on the PTSO at Central High when the school was much larger and events that would cost \$200 or \$300 were put on.

Ms. Brown-Clayton said she would ask Ms. Clarke and Ms. Morales to further update the document and she would provide it electronically.

Mr. Sokolovic noted the year is closed out and he did not want to spend the resources on just a minor update. He said he was very happy with the direction we were moving in.

In response to a question, Mr. Sokolovic said Ms. Clarke indicated there is nothing against the rules in paying a staff member for parent expenditures. Ms. Pereira noted the teachers are BEA members, while the Harding situation involved a paralegal. She said she believed there was a prohibition in the BEA contract against teachers being paid after hours.

Mr. Sokolovic noted one of the staff members who is paid gives discounts and other things for free. He said it was a bigger discussion for another item.

The next agenda item was on the healthy foods exemption for 2019-20.

John Garritty from the nutrition department said the board has already agreed that at an earlier meeting to adopt the healthy foods policies. Exemptions address allowing the district to sell items that are not on the healthy foods list at sporting events or after-school activities. He said this brings money to the district. He said it was the same language already approved in the past.

Ms. Martinez moved *“to approve the exemptions for food and beverages in Bridgeport Public Schools as presented by Mr. Garritty for approval of the full board.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on USDA commodity food processing bids for 2019-20.

Mr. Garritty said the commodities are obtained through federal dollars, totaling about \$1 million based on the number of meals served the previous year. Commodities such as chicken, eggs, cheese and turkey are purchased and sent to processors to turn into a finished product.

In response to a question, Mr. Garritty said the soy butter bids will be part of non-commodities.

In response to a question, Mr. Garritty said the package was split into commodities and non-commodities, with the latter to be presented at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Garritty said the department can roll over the bid if the provider agrees to stay with their current pricing. Ms. Pereira noted the board has to approve it.

Mr. Sokolovic said he would like to have presented only the things that have changed or are not the cheapest. If the cheapest bid is not chosen he would like to hear the reasoning behind the decision. He said he did not want to see a high stack of paper at the next meeting.

In response to a question, Mr. Garritty said he was not changing any of the bid language approved by the board.

Ms. Pereira said the bids were approved last year for one year and there is the opportunity to extend them for one year or two years.

In response to a question, Mr. Garritty said the companies that process commodities deliver finished products to school districts that meet USDA standards. He said the pollock item would be delivered in fish sticks or filets.

Mr. Garritty said unfortunately there is not a lot of competition amongst processors. He said there were only two major processors of eggs. He said taste tests are held to determine the best product to put on the menus; sometimes the least expensive product is not chosen.

Mr. Kennedy arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Martinez moved *“to push the USDA commodity food processing bids for 2019-20 to the full board at the next meeting.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved.

Ms. Martinez moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the committee on June 14, 2019