

Thursday, June 21, 2018

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held June 21, 2018, at Bridgeport City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were members Chair Joseph Sokolovic, Ben Walker and Maria Pereira.

Superintendent Aresta L. Johnson, Ed.D., was present.

The first item was nutrition bids, which included milk and bread bids.

Ms. Pereira said the milk/dairy and bread/bakery bids were sent electronically today.

Dr. Johnson said the pages on commodities and for purchases are up to date. She noted she provided redlined copies as well as revised versions in black ink.

Ms. Pereira said the commodity bids were voted on with the changes and they should be okay to vote on on Monday.

The committee decided to look at the bread/bakery and milk/dairy bids.

Mr. Walker noted the committee made changes on 13 of the bids and is now looking at two bids.

Ms. Pereira said she called three local bakeries and nobody knows what a U.S. flour certification is. She said it seemed

like there were many restrictions to keep local vendors from being able to apply. She said the restrictions are not present in the New Haven district.

Dr. Johnson said Mr. Esposito was not present due to a death in his family.

Ms. Pereira said she didn't know why we would need it if it were not in the New Haven bid. Mr. Walker said nothing came up in a Google search. He said he agreed to strike it.

Dr. Johnson suggested consulting with nutrition and she would report back via e-mail.

Mr. Walker suggested we strike the reference unless there's some safety reason for it.

Ms. Pereira said most districts have their vendors put a statement that they buy U.S. flour on their letterhead. She said the request for two years of flour invoices was ridiculous.

Mr. Sokolovic wondered if it was a reimbursement-related requirement.

Ms. Pereira said this is just the bid; once a bidder is selected, the contract can be written to require submissions such as this. She said the bids are too specific.

Mr. Walker said he agreed we don't want something in the bid specification that discourages bidders. Ms. Pereira suggested Mr. Esposito look at the New Haven bid. Dr. Johnson said if it's not required, it would be taken out.

Ms. Pereira pointed to the provisions on cleanliness of packaging. She said the district does not see the packaging during the bid-awarding process because the bidder hasn't been selected as the vendor yet.

Mr. Sokolovic said he didn't have a problem with that provision scaring somebody off who he would not like to attract to bid. Mr. Walker said the vast majority of products were probably not given to the children in packaging, with the exception of milk cartons and some items.

Mr. Walker asked Dr. Johnson to ask Mr. Esposito if that is necessary and to remove it if it is not needed.

Ms. Pereira said the committee decided to add language to the indemnification section to add the phrase "Board of Education," and that was not done on any of the revised bids.

Mr. Walker said he was hoping that there is a standard document that the department types into to create the bids. Dr. Johnson said the nutrition department does it. She said she asked Ms. Ortiz to help with getting the document prepared in time.

Ms. Pereira said the committee decided that if the supplier failed to supply any request, the food service department had the option of suspending the contract pending immediate notification and approval of the board. Mr. Walker said the nutrition center should be designated as having the option of suspending the contract pending immediate notification and approval of the board. Dr. Johnson said she remembered the discussion and the correction would be made.

Ms. Pereira said a provision on delivery equipment was not in the other 13 bids, but is present in the bids under discussion. She said it indicates the district has the right to reject the delivery equipment of the vendor. Mr. Walker noted it goes on to say the vehicles have to be clean, sanitary and suitable for hauling. Ms. Pereira said it's just a truck that delivers food. Mr. Walker said he thought it was a fair provision

Ms. Pereira said the nutrition center should not have the discretion in this area because we saw what happened when someone went to the city attorney and requested an emergency to cancel a contract without the knowledge of the superintendent, the chief financial officer or the board

Mr. Sokolovic suggested similar language – giving the nutrition center discretion and requiring notification to the board immediately. He said he did not want to see a truck pulling up with roaches or rats.

Mr. Walker noted similar provisions were in the chicken, turkey, and beef product bids.

Dr. Johnson said she would like Mr. Esposito to have the ability to not take an order if something like a rat was present.

Ms. Pereira said she doesn't have faith in the nutrition center because they did some really bad stuff. She said she feels like they'll make things up.

Dr. Johnson said notification to the board in the event a refusal of delivery would be appropriate.

It was decided to leave in a requirement that a bidder be registered with the Secretary of State.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said a reference to extending a contract for one year at the discretion of Board of Education will be added to the purchasing bid as was done for commodity bids.

Ms. Pereira said she went through all the attachments and she is concerned about a provision on frozen bread, which would eliminate local vendors because they cannot provide frozen bread.

Mr. Walker moved *“that we approve the bids for milk and dairy and bread and bakery and that we approve all the edits we have given you this evening.”* The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira and unanimously approved.

Mr. Walker said he unfortunately he had to leave because he was not feeling well.

Ms. Pereira asked Mr. Sokolovic if he wanted to work on the magnet school agenda items. Mr. Walker said he would really like to be part of the discussion. Ms. Pereira noted nothing could come out of the committee without the approval of Mr. Sokolovic and herself.

Mr. Sokolovic said the item could be handled at the next meeting in August. He suggested at the next meeting we get something that we’re able to put in front of the board.

Ms. Pereira said she was disappointed with what we got in the e-mails because it did not include notations that showed what was edited.

Mr. Walker said we've told them two different things. He said he had he wanted to see the entirely new version, without lineouts. Ms. Pereira said it's hard to see what's changed in the latest version.

Dr. Johnson said she brought copies in both black ink and redlined versions. Mr. Walker said he was not interested in seeing the old language given the volume of edits and revisions. He said he wanted to start with something new.

Ms. Pereira said the redlined version would be needed for the full board. Mr. Walker said the board could be provided with the old policy and the new policy. Ms. Pereira said we had always worked with redlined versions.

Mr. Walker moved that "*we postpone these two items to our next meeting.*" The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and approved by a 2-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Sokolovic and Walker. Voting in opposition was Ms. Pereira.

Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and approved by a 2-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Sokolovic and Walker. Voting in opposition was Ms. Pereira.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod