

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

MINUTES OF THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE OF THE
BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held November 9,
2022, held via Microsoft Teams, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Present were members Chair John Weldon and Christine Baptiste-Perez. Board member Albert Benejan was present. Committee member Joe Lombard and board member Joe Sokolovic joined the meeting subsequently as noted.

Interim Superintendent Alyshia Perrin was present.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weldon and unanimously approved.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 14, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weldon and unanimously approved.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weldon and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on the School Improvement Grant (SIG) agreements for Bassick High School.

Nadira Clarke, director of grants, said the Bassick High has a total award of \$400,000, which is in the process of being fully approved at the state level. There are three contracts in the proposal: Partners for Educational Leadership; Milestones; and CES. Ms. Clarke said the agreements

were included in the committee's packets. She said the contracts were developed over the last couple of months and the signature blocks need to be updated to remove references to Supt. Testani.

In response to a question, Dr. Joseph Raiola, principal of Bassick High, said some of the professional development covered in the contract has started on developing a common vision for Tier I instruction. Ms. Baptiste-Perez noted the contract states work will be on September 22nd.

Ms. Clarke said the state has not fully approved the initiative, but we were moving this ahead as much as we could without the state saying they wanted particular items removed. She said this was the first available meeting to bring the item to the board. She said Partners for Educational Leadership is working districtwide with district leaders and this is one component. Dr. Raiola said he believed possibly a half a dozen sessions had been held so far.

In response to a question, Ms. Clarke said she has been working with state from the moment their released the contract so that we could avoid this situation. She said she felt confident it would be one hundred percent approved by the state, but we are technically at the mercy of the state for final confirmation.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez asked to be provided with the exact number of sessions that has taken place at Bassick. Dr. Raiola said he could provide that information tomorrow.

Mr. Lombard and Mr. Sokolovic joined the meeting.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez moved *"to introduce the Bassick SIGs to the full board, contingent upon production of how many*

sessions have already occurred.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Weldon and approved by a 2-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon and Baptiste-Perez. Mr. Lombard abstained.

The next agenda item was on the extended school hour grant agreements for Classical Studies Magnet Academy.

Ms. Clarke that said the grant is part of our Alliance/Priority package that is submitted. Out of the grant \$224,000 is set aside for Classical Studies, which includes \$140,700 for subcontractors. Carver Foundation provides SRBI-based Tier III learning focus during the after-school program at the cost of \$110,007. There is a \$30,000 contract with Access Educational Services to provide STEM experiential learning. She said these are community-based organizations, which started the programs in October, so there were services before the contract began.

Tina Peloso-Ulreich, principal of Classical Studies, said this is a wonderful program. She said when Classical Studies was established there was a built-in extended day program. The grant was applied for in 2018 when the original extended day program was phased out. She said the Carver Foundation works in the Linwood building for Grades 3 to 8; the Beechwood campus covers pre-K to Grade 2 and has STEM activities through Access and Discovery Magnet/Sacred Heart University.

Ms. Clarke said the Discovery contract was not before the board because it was below the threshold.

In response to a question, Ms. Peluso-Ulreich said the Carver Foundation was on the same track and using the

same programming as pre-pandemic. Mr. Sokolovic said he knew the program was well-received.

Mr. Lombard moved “*to refer this to the full board for its consideration.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Weldon and approved by a 2-0 vote.

Voting in favor were members Weldon and Lombard. Ms. Baptiste-Perez said she abstained she didn’t finish reviewing the contract.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

*Approved by the Personnel & Contracts Committee on
January 31, 2023*