

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

MINUTES OF THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held August 31, 2022, at Central High School, 1 Lincoln Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were members Chair John Weldon and Christine Baptiste-Perez.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez moved to approve the committee's minutes of June 2, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weldon and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on approving the award of food and nutrition service items.

Keoma Steele, director of food and nutrition, was present. Mr. Steele said the bids were completed before his start date. In response to a question, he said all the lowest bids were proposed for awards.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez moved *"referring this item to the full board to approve the award of food and nutrition service items for food items, paper items, and cleaning supply items."* The motion was seconded by Mr. Weldon and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on approving an agreement for special education audit services with Arizona State University.

Tony Pires, manager of business operations, was present. He said the item was put out to bid in March 2022, with three

responses. Arizona State University was chosen and the contract before the committee was arrived at. He said the audit will start as soon as the contract is executed and the city purchasing board approves it. He said the value of the agreement is about \$82,000, which will cover a three-or-four-months process.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez noted the document had been signed and executed by Supt. Testani on August 23rd. Mr. Pires said it was signed unintentionally, but the document does not include a start date, so it would not be fully enforceable.

In response to a question, Mr. Pires said he did not have a written legal opinion from Berchem & Moses on the enforceability of the contract in its present condition. He said Berchem & Moses negotiated with counsel for Arizona State University, and the vendor is aware the contract requires full board approval and the approval of the city purchasing board.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez said the document was signed by both parties, and she noted the lack of a written legal opinion. She said it sounded like it's already enforceable in the current state.

Mr. Weldon asked Mr. Pires to get an opinion from Berchem & Moses on the enforceability of the contract for presentation at the next board meeting. Ms. Baptiste-Perez requested a letter from the Arizona State University that what's been executed by Mr. Testani is void as of August 23rd.

Ms. Baptiste-Perez said she did not want to move this to the full board before the committee gets to look at the material requested.

Mr. Weldon said a follow-up meeting may be held on Teams to deal with the matter.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the committee on November 9, 2022