



East Greenwich School Committee

Friday, September 23, 2022

Hybrid Meeting: Cole Middle School & Via Zoom

Minutes

Attendees

School Committee: Ms. Anne Musella, Chair; Mr. William Hangan; Mr. Tim Munoz; Mr. Kevin Murphy; Dr. Eugene Quinn

Absent: Ms. Alyson Powell, Vice Chair; Ms. Nicole Bucka

Additional Attendees: Mr. Neil Marcaccio, Director of MTSS; Mrs. Amy Healey, Confidential Administrative Assistant; Attorney Aubrey Lombardo (arrived at 4:09pm)

Attendees via Zoom: Dr. Brian G. Ricca, Superintendent; Mrs. Maggie Baker, Director of Administration

4:00 pm Open Session

Ms. Musella called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

I. Discussion / Approval Special Education Audit RFP.

Ms. Musella explained that this RFP was prepared by Mr. Marcaccio, Ms. Bucka and Henneous Carroll Lombardo. She noted that it is important to move this process forward in order for the audit to have an impact on the FY 24 budget.

The anticipated timeline:

Publish RFP by 9-28-22

Deadline for submission 10-14-22

Approval of vendor 10-11-22

Anticipated vote on the contract 10-25-22

Dr. Quinn made a motion to approve the Special Education Audit RFP. Mr. Hangan seconded the motion.

Discussion

- Background
- Purpose

- Eligibility and Minimum Requirements
- Scope/Functional Requirements
 - Analysis of stakeholder feedback and any additional data on child find processes
 - Analysis of stakeholder feedback and any additional data on grades K-5
 - Evaluation of stakeholder feedback and any additional data on the design, structure and delivery of special education services
 - Analysis of stakeholder feedback and any additional data on the adequacy of human capital resources in relation to identification of eligible students and the provision of special education services
 - Description of Deliverables

Mr. Munoz pointed out that the RFP emphasizes analysis of the stakeholders survey that was just done rather than having a third party start with a fresh look. Mr. Marcaccio acknowledged Mr. Munoz's review of the RFP but added that it does include the opportunity to gather new data.

Attorney Lombardo explained that the emphasis on using the District's data was intentionally written that way by Ms. Bucka who expressed concern about leaving all the data collection to a third party and the potential cost. Attorney Lombardo added that by making the RFP less broad, the audit can more likely be completed in a timely manner and for less cost.

RIDE's assessment of the District's special education services uses an approach that is less dependent on data and more focused on talking with and observing teachers and students. Mr. Marcaccio stated that RIDE's assessment has already begun and school visits and individual students' program audits are scheduled for late November, early December.

Mr. Murphy inquired about the timeline of the audit

Attorney Lombardo said that she anticipates that the audit will be concluded before the end of this school year, if not sooner. The parent survey identified areas to look into. Mr. Marcaccio expressed his hope that this audit will also identify strengths of the programs.

Ms. Musella asked whether responses should include a timeline for completion. She suggested collecting proposed changes to the RFP and bringing it back for a vote at another meeting.

Mr. Hangan inquired about the fiscal impact and cost benefit analysis of the audit.

Attorney Lombardo pointed out that this type of work is extremely specialized and it is likely that firms from outside our region will respond to the RFP.

Dr. Quinn spoke in favor of voting on this motion today and allowing for details to be worked out through the responses and subsequent contract.

Dr. Ricca concurred with Dr. Quinn and lent his support for having a vote on this RFP today. He said that this will hopefully highlight strengths and present opportunities for growth in the District's special education services.

Ms. Baker asked that any revisions be sent to her office by the start of next week.

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Special Education Audit RFP, subject to non substantive changes

II. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 10-11-22