BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
Date: October 7, 2024

Topic: Rise Up for Youth 2024-25 Contract

Background Information: Rise Up for Youth inspires and motivates future generations to unlock their full potential through education, mentoring, and empowerment. Through our two mentoring programs, Brotherhood and Sisterhood, Rise Up for Youth works to keep students in school, out of legal trouble, and on their way to a life of purpose.

Rise Up for Youth historically serves over 400 district students annually. Our partnership allows us to provide much-needed services for students. Students come to our program through recruitment, word of mouth, and referrals from teachers, counselors, and community members. Many students we serve encounter barriers preventing them from reaching their full potential. Most of the students we serve come from low socio-economic backgrounds, challenging home situations, and limited academic success. Without our input and guidance through mentoring and strategic activities, many of them can fall through the cracks and not graduate from high school and go on to pursue post-secondary education.

Rise Up for Youth provides services in seven high schools: East, Southeast, West, North, Heights, Northeast, and South. We have seen growth with both our Sisterhood and Brotherhood programs. The team builds relationships not only with students but school administrators and staff members. We provide weekly mentoring sessions at each school, allowing us to provide students with emotional and academic support. Our mentoring sessions also allow students the opportunity to address issues impeding their ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

We provide one on one mentoring, monthly workshops, opportunities for civic engagement, and college and career readiness programming that aims to provide exposure and opportunities to assist in their skill development. We strive to prepare students for their post-secondary journey by taking them on local, regional, and national college tours. The staff of Rise Up for Youth are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and go where students need them. It is our mission that the services we provide empower our students to become positive and productive members of society. We value our partnership with the district and appreciate the long-standing support from the Board that ensures we are advocates for youth in the Wichita community.

This agreement includes seven district high schools with over 400 students provided mentor services through Rise Up for Youth for the school year beginning in August 2024 and concluding in May 2025 for $21,000. The cost of these services is $3,000 per school to serve up to 60 students at each site for a total of 420 students district wide.