

Responses to Board Member Questions

Prior to Finance Committee Meeting on February 22, 2023

Agenda Item IV.A.: Consideration for Approval of Budget Adjustments to Existing Grant Budget for the Following Funds (page 13 of the digital packet)

Regarding ARPA (ESSER III) Homeless Children & Youth:

What data do you have on this program and its effects on improved educational outcomes?

Data shows that students and families who are working with our team show increased enrollment and attendance, increased savings, increased efforts to seek and find housing, and weekly check-ins with students increase successes in school, including grades, completion of FAFSA, college applications, job skills, access to community resources.

What Covid-19 impacts have been mitigated specifically?

We are routing families to New Mexico Eviction Prediction and Diversion Programs; we have implemented job skills training to mitigate employment loss in our community; we have implemented Financial Literacy through Bank on Burque, UNM EITC Tax Assistance, and the IRS to support families accessing funds they were not able to receive due to unstable housing.

How many children have been served through the life of this grant thus far?

In SY 21-22, we served 3,115 students and 1,603 families; in SY 22-23, as of January 31, 2023, we have served 2,713 students and 1,374 families.

How many staff are paid through this grant?

2 FTE and one hourly employee is an Intern with lived experience under McKinney-Vento (20 hours/week)

And what contracts and services are also paid through this grant? Same questions for the APS Homeless Project.

We have paid for some Professional Development for our staff to better serve our community; we will utilize funds to pay per capita to families who are transporting their students to school when APS bus services are not available. We were intent on accessing funds to help with hotel stays for families and have not been successful in this process. We are looking at other district successes in this area.

Regarding Family Income Index Pilot:

What are the intervention initiatives at these 12 schools?

In reviewing the detailed budget report for each of the 17 schools, it appears the overall intervention initiatives are to improve reading and math based on 90 plan data and address the EL needs of their school(s). Many schools are choosing to invest in AVID, GLAD, Kagan, and restorative practices. It is also evident that schools feel the need to have additional compensation for teachers to tutor outside the duty day or to compensate staff and/or hire extra people to push into classrooms to support the targeted learning needs of students.

How many children served and what are the improved student outcomes so far?

5,321. Student outcome is not available at this time.

Can you give some specificity as to what the almost \$4,000,000 was spent on?

Additional Comp for Teacher for Coaching and PD in Words Their Way Curriculum, Number Talks, Math Rigor, Playworks recess implementation, MLSS Layers for reading and math, book studies and study groups, teacher leaders compensation, Professional Development Project Arc, PBL World, AVID, Community Schools Conference, Kagan GLAD, AIMS4S3, Haggerty, Classcraft Behavior Program Parent and teacher education on Love and Logic, Healthy Family Service Leveled readers aligned to Benchmark Curriculum Software: Words their way, Flocabulary, Brain Pop, ST Math, A-Z Reading, Typesy, Supplies and materials for Math, SEL, STEAM makerspace items, technology for STEAM LAB, Zones of Regulation ELD, Bilingual, GLAD, AIMS4S3, and hands on learning, furniture for sensory rooms, mural and paint supplies, Estrellita Program materials, KAGAN, Add-vantage Math Recovery Instruction Salary+Benefits:.5 Behavioral Redirector, .25 Community School Coordinator,.5 Social Worker for Gen Ed, Dean of Students, EAs to assist with small group intervention reading and math, Retired Teachers to push in during math instruction, Literacy/math interventionist Substitutes to cover Professional development, After school programs/intervention and tutoring Take home science materials, Field Trips/buses Cultural activities, Family Nights for Reading, Math, SEL, Adult Education GED, ESL, Guest Speakers and presenters Cultural diversity, PBIS

The \$17,502 went to contract services, what are these services?

International Center for Leadership in Education partnership model, Healthy Families Counseling (Love and Logic), Field trip fees, and buses

IV.C.Consideration for Approval of Intra-Function Transfers for Grant Budget for the Month of January 2023 (page 67)

There was a budget transfer of over \$2,000,000 to pay teachers for tutoring McKinney Vento students so how many students are being tutored, at what cost per hour, what percentage of our qualified students are getting tutored twice a week for 2 hours and what is the attendance rate for these students and is all the tutoring being done in a small group during school hours?

This justification needed to be corrected. The correct justification is: transfer to align budget with actual expenses for the extended day at TOPS Schools, not tutoring.

The latest version has been sent and posted to the website.

What do you feel will be the total number of tutoring hours that will be given through the 2 year pilot?

No tutoring; see the response above.

The pilot program for \$3.6 million will end in June 2023. What happens to the program come July 1st 2023?

Depending on the current legislative session and appropriations to the District, it may be funded out of HB2 or other legislative appropriations. If not, we will look into funding through ESSER funds for the school year 2023-2024.

IV.H. Consideration for Approval of Authorization and Delegation on the Sale of District General Obligation Bond in the Principal Amount of not to Exceed \$70 Million and Refunding of the Series 2014 A Bonds for \$47 MillionItem (page 113)

I see you anticipate an interest saving of \$1.84 million, so what is the current interest rate & what will it likely be reduced to?

The Series 2014A Bonds have an average rate of 4.000%. The refunding based upon current market conditions would reduce the interest rate to 2.81%, thus resulting in the interest cost savings.

IV.J. Consideration for Approval for District Purchase or Expenditure that Equals or Exceeds Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) - Cognia NM-ASR Spring 2023 Assessment for Grades 5, 8, 11 and Spanish Reading SBA for Grade 11 in the amount of \$212,707.60 (page 129)

How many tests will be purchased for each grade level?

- Grade 5 computer-based test: 5,525
- Grade 8 computer-based test: 5,340
- Grade 11 computer-based test: 4,500
- Grade 5 paper-based test booklet: 10
- Grade 8 paper-based test booklet: 10
- Grade 11 paper-based booklet: 10
- Grade 11 paper-based test st booklet (Spanish): 40

How many extra tests are purchased beyond this?

These amounts should be sufficient, as annually, a PO revision is required to show the actual amount used.

Supply chain issues won't be a problem in receiving them in time for the spring testing window?

Supply chain issues should not be a problem as they are reserved by the NMPED and Cognia.

What was the previous spend?

\$217,136.11

Item IV. K. Consideration for Approval of District Purchase or Expenditure that Equals or Exceeds Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) – ClearPass License (page 133)

Why are we using ESSER Funds for this purchase and is this a good use of these funds?

ESSER funds for Wireless Improvements is a planned and approved use. This will improve wireless network access for all stakeholders within APS, which is critical to Digital learning and access to information. It will leave the district with lasting improvements.

What makes this a more 'modern implementation'?

Our current authentication system is built on technology that is over a decade old and unsupported by the manufacturer (2008 server), which is considered a root cause of connectivity issues district-wide. This will also enable us to improve our network security

by connecting user identities to our security systems, supporting a "zero-trust" architecture, which is a more modern network framework.

Will these licenses have to be renewed? If so, when & at what cost?

No, they are perpetual.

Item IV. L. Consideration for Approval of District Purchase or Expenditure that Equals or Exceeds Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) – Janitorial Scheduled Services for Various District Facilities (page 137)

Does Clean Team Inc. provide services our custodians do not provide?

These are Cleaning services for District Offices and not schools. This is a 100% turnkey service that includes cleaning supplies, paper goods, equipment and labor)

Which facilities are covered?

The contractor provides custodial services to ALL APS Admin and Support Services Sites – District-wide (i.e., City Center, Lincoln Complex, Aztec, Berna Facio, Rankin Road, Lowell Complex, Data Center, M Bldg, etc).

How much is the hourly rate paid?

The hourly pay is done by different tasks and by square footage

How many hours of service does this company provide per week, per year?

This contract is not based on hours of service. It is based on duties (daily, weekly, monthly, annually) and square footage. See Attachment A of RFP for specific tasks.

This amounts to approximately \$843,643 per year, which almost equals the increase from the previous spend. Why the \$702,393.98 increase, which amounts to an approximately 16% increase, correct?

Three additional buildings were added - which adds duties and square footage.

Item, IV. M. Consideration for Approval of District Purchase or Expenditure that Equals or Exceeds Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) – Municipal Advisory Services (page 141)

They are the only company that applied to provide municipal advisory services?'

Yes, we only received one proposal. It was advertised in the Albuquerque Journal, and it was sent to 14 companies that registered with our RFP/Bid notification system (Vendor Registry).

How many years have they been providing services to APS?

This is a new contract for a term of four years. This firm has provided services to APS since 2001.

Is the service fee range of 1/10 of 1% to 3/10 of 1% typical, and what is the average service fee other companies charge?

Yes, this rate is similar to the previous year's contract.

Item. IV. O. Consideration for Approval of District Purchase or Expenditure that Equal or Exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) – Verizon Wireless Cell Service (page 147)

How many cell phones does this cover per year at \$475,000 annually?

623

Can you give us the percentage increase from last year to this year, about 4%? Why the fluctuating cost, the cost increases, then decreases, then increases?

Dependent on the number of devices and hot spots.

Item. IV. P. Consideration for Approval of District Purchase or Expenditure that Equals or Exceeds Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) – Manufacturer Direct – Processed Foods RFP No. 23-046MS (page 151)

What is the term of the \$6,000,000 contract?

One year

Should the length of the contract be on the Action Memo?

yes

Hope we are taking a hard look at the nutritional quality of these processed foods!

Item. IV. R.IV.R. Consideration for Approval of District Purchase or Expenditure that Equals or Exceeds Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) – District Specialty Lab Equipment and Student/Teacher Devices (page 157)

So we still need to spend funds on devices rather than on something else?

In APS, we use technology as an accelerator of learning. All students in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade are issued an iPad or Chromebook for educational use as part of our 1:1 technology solution. The 1:1 solution uses digital curriculum materials, student engagement and collaboration tools, and individualized instruction in all subject areas with the goal of enhancing student learning and preparing global digital citizens.

- *Teachers save hours on lesson planning by using a comprehensive digital resource that integrates with their learning management system.*
- *Studies show that students achieve better grades and test scores when using digital resources to supplement in-person instruction. Northwestern College Iowa, ScienceDaily*
- Average device usage averages around 60,000 logins a day.

Currently students access these curriculum platforms digitally:

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (1076 classes with 7487 students using curriculum)sold its Books & Media trade publishing unit to Harper Collins Publishers for \$349 million in early 2021. The sale allows HMH to develop the digital, more service-oriented future of its K-12 education business.
- Benchmark Universe (4152 classes and 58487 students)
- STEMSCOPES (2050 classes and 38859 students)
- ORIGO math (2165 classes and 38358 students)

- QuaverMusic (1170 classes 18892 students)
- Savvas Learning Company (2869 classes 41372 students)

Can you tie this spend to increased student outcomes, if so how & what does the data show?

Teaching students about and with technology is essential to their overall success. It is important that students are fluent in digital information - that they are given opportunities to learn both about and with technology so that they have the skills and confidence to grow and pivot with it. Technology has put access to knowledge at our fingertips. A curious student can answer almost any question in just a few clicks. This has shifted the emphasis in the classroom from the acquisition of knowledge to the acquisition of the skills that help learners interact with that knowledge.

Effect of blended learning on student performance in K-12 settings: A meta-analysis Shuqin Li, Weihua Wang First published: 20 June 2022

<https://doi.org/10.1111/jcal.12696>

- Reports the first meta-analysis on the effects of blended learning on K-12 student performance compared to traditional face-to-face learning.
- Blended learning significantly improves K-12 students' overall performance ($g = 0.65$), particularly in the cognitive domain ($g = 0.74$).
- The effect of blended learning is impacted by the group activities, educational level, subject, knowledge type, instructor, sample size, intervention duration and region.
- Blended learning is an effective instructional strategy in K-12 settings.

IV.S. Consideration for Approval of District Purchase or Expenditure that Equals or Exceeds Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) –Strategic Resource Planning (page 159)

This \$700,000 spend is for a term of how many years?

This is for Phase I and II of the project - Current State Assessment and Transparent and Equitable Funding Model Design.

Should the term be outlined in the Action Memo?

Term is still in negotiation, maybe up to 12 months.

Is this Strategic Resource Planning helping with the move to student outcome-based budgeting (a new school funding model)?

yes

How many hours will they provide, will they provide in-person training, what resources will they provide in general?

They will provide consulting services for Phase I - Current State Assessment and Phase 2 Transparent and /or Equitable Funding Model. Phase I would have a core team of 5 consulting team members and may be up to six months. Phase II would have a core team of 5 consultants and may be up to six months.

Approval of District Purchase or Expenditure that Equals or Exceeds Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) – Municipal Advisory Services

What are these Municipal Advisory Services?

Assist the District in the issuance, sale, and delivery of bonds and in issuing refunding bonds for outstanding bonds sold at higher rates in the previous year(s) if advantageous

- Study the District's debt structure, trends of assessed valuations and tax rates, and present an estimate future requirements.

Long-range capital improvement needs and present and possible future debt funding levels

Represent the District in securing the highest possible rating from rating agencies and consult with the District Representatives.

Advisor to be available at all times during the bond process to answer questions and provide additional information/clarification as required.

Assist the Chief Financial Officer and the District in planning and preparing for a bond election.

Assist in the analysis and preparation of options for the financing of recommended projects. Such assistance shall include assessment of all possible funding sources, including local, state and other sources.

Assist in the survey and analysis of the District's financial resources in the light of projected revenue and existing indebtedness, including a study of the District's existing debt structure and trend of assessed valuation, taxing ability and present and future tax requirement.

Provide on-going advice, as required, regarding new developments in the municipal bond industry as they affect the District's current and projected long-term debt financing.

Assist and provide documentation and/or prepare official calculations as requested to aid with accounting, disclosures and reporting.

Approval of District Purchase or Expenditure that Equals or Exceeds Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) –Strategic Resource Planning

Does this refer to the work of Attuned?

No, this is work related to APS pursuing a student-based budget.