

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

August 28, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Contracts Between \$14,000 and \$24,999 (FMC-05-06-19-06)

Question

Ms. Dixon requested additional information on some of the MCPS contracts between \$14,000 and \$24,999 in terms of the reason for the contract and what the money is being used for.

Response

Detailed information for applicable Montgomery County Public Schools contracts between \$14,000 and \$24,999 follows.

Annie H. Batiste, ELL Support Services at St. Francis International School, \$21,758.39

Consultation with private school officials is a requirement for a Local Education Agency's (LEA) provision of Title III services for eligible private school English learners (ELs), their teachers, and other educational personnel. Under Section 9501(c) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), a LEA is required to consult in a timely and meaningful manner with private school officials during the design and development of the Title III services. As part of timely and meaningful consultation, the LEA and private school officials should discuss whether the private school wishes to have its eligible ELs, their teachers, and other educational personnel receive Title III services, and if so, how its students will be identified as ELs. A LEA, in consultation with private school officials, determines the appropriate Title III services based on the needs of the eligible private school students, their teachers, and other educational personnel and the amount of funds available for such services pursuant to the 10 equal expenditure requirements (see Section 9501(a)(4) of the ESEA).

Annie H. Batiste is paid with Title III funding and provides the following services to St. Francis International School:

- Small group and individual pull-out Designated English Language instruction to identified EL students;
- Meeting with teachers to review language strategies; and
- Sharing information with the grant project manager(s) and Title III staff members.

McChell Jackson Training for School Plant Operations, \$20,000

The Division of School Plant Operations conducts a 38-hour Building Systems Operations course twice yearly for building service employees. The contract with McChell Jackson is to provide the instructional services and activities to train building service staff in current industry standards related to safe and effective operation of heating and air conditioning systems and other building operations systems. Completion of this course is required for promotion to assistant manager, manager, and plant equipment operator positions. The curriculum also includes basic plumbing and electrical material. This course was provided in the past through a contract with Montgomery College at a significantly higher rate.

Johns Hopkins University for Routines Based Interview™ Training, \$24,500

Johns Hopkins University is providing professional development in the Routines Based Interview™ (RBI™) technique. RBI™ is a semi-structured interview that helps one examine the day-to-day activities of children within the context of their family and community settings. The goals of RBI™ are to begin to: 1) develop a relationship with the family and/or caregivers; 2) obtain a rich description of how the child functions within his or her daily activities; and 3) create a list of functional child and family outcomes/goals.

The 18 service providers (15 Part C—Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program; and 3 Part B—Prekindergarten) will learn to incorporate these evidence-based strategies into their work with families. They also will gain an understanding of how these strategies align with the Maryland State Department of Education initiatives.

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Participants will understand the evidence-based concepts of the RBI™. They will acquire information and skills through lecture, group activities, observation, and practical application.
2. Participants will complete follow-up activities, including a take-home test and a video sample of an independently completed RBI™, which will include an eco-map, notes, and functional outcomes generated via the interview.
3. Participants will participate in regularly scheduled reflective coaching sessions to build their skills and capacities in RBI™, as well as develop skills to support colleague-to-colleague coaching to maintain the fidelity of the RBI™ practice.
4. Participants will reflect on their own practice and identify ways that the philosophies, as well as the practice of the RBI™ can be integrated into their day-to-day practice with families.

State of Maryland, University of Maryland, Baltimore, for Professional Services, \$14,000

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is focused on building the capacity of staff members to implement strategies to help students develop strong social and emotional skills. Professional learning is focused on training prekindergarten (pre-K) staff in the *Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning* (SEFEL), a framework based on the *Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children*. To ensure the fidelity of SEFEL implementation, pre-K staff members will participate in *Practice-based Coaching* with coaches trained

by the Pyramid Model Consortium. As teachers become more competent in helping pre-K students develop strong foundations in social and emotional skills, students will be better prepared for kindergarten and will enter school with age-expected skills.

University of Maryland, Baltimore, will provide the following services:

- Practice-based Coaching to MCPS pre-K staff, which includes:
 - Observing teachers; and
 - Meeting with teachers to develop and review goals and action plans, and to reflect on practices.
- Participating in communications with the Pyramid Model Consortium.
- Sharing information with the grant project manager(s) and early childhood staff members.
- Participating in the Pyramid Model SEFEL MCPS leadership team meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, chief operating officer, at 240-740-3050.

JRS:AMZ:sro

Copy to:

Dr. McKnight
Dr. Navarro
Dr. Statham
Dr. Zuckerman
Mr. Civin
Dr. Johnson
Ms. Diamond
Mr. Turner
Ms. Webb