

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014
(SPECIAL MEETING)
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair McBride-Lee; Co-chair Taylor-Moye,
Council member: Feliciano; *Council President McCarthy

*=sat in to make a quorum

OTHER(s): R. Gupta, Central Grants; C. Smith, Central Grants;
Tina Peloso-Ulreich, Director of Early Childhood

Members of Public: Carmen Lopez, Clyde Nicholson

Co-chair McBride-Lee called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm.

Approval of Committee Minutes of February 12, 2014

**** CO-CHAIR TAYLOR MOYE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

86-13 Grant Submission re: State Department of Education for 2014 Early Childhood Bond Funds

Ms. Gupta stated this resolution pertained to the State Department of Education for 2014 Early Childhood Bond Funds.

Ms. Peloso-Ulreich, Director Early Childhood stated that the grant was applied for during February 2013. She explained that they originally applied for the grant due to a wish list of \$617k for multiple projects under the Minor Capital Improvement and Wiring for Technologies Grant and Bridgeport won the second round award in the amount of \$96k. She further explained that they decided that improvements were needed at the following schools:

- Cesar Batalla School
- Barnum School
- Blackham School
- Marin School
- Read School
- Tisdale School

- Beardsley School
- Bryant School
- Waltersville School
- Columbus School
- Park City Magnet

She went on to say that the Use of Bond Fund Award in the **amount of \$24,000** would be used for the renovation of (2) bathrooms; radiator covers at **Beardsley School**; the **amount of \$3,000** for a heavy duty playground fence at **Marin School** and the **amount of \$69,600** for (44) security radios for preschool classrooms at **twelve (12) schools**.

Carmen Lopez a member of the public that was present interjected to ask if there was a copy of this information available to the public. Council President McCarthy let her know that copies were available through the city clerk's office and he offered to give her his copy when the meeting ended.

Council member Feliciano asked about the fence that was proposed for Marin School. Ms. Peloso-Ulreich stated that the fence would be located at the back of the building.

Council President asked if the state made the decision regarding the amount school(s) would receive. He further questioned why Beardsley School was receiving more than the other schools. Ms. Peloso-Ulreich explained that the bathrooms were old and in poor condition at Beardsley School. She noted that there may be future allocation rounds. She also mentioned that there was no city match to the grant.

Ms. Peloso-Ulreich explained that they requested over \$600,000 in repairs and equipment and \$96,000 is the amount they were allocated.

Co-chair McBride-Lee asked what the security radios involved. Ms. Peloso-Ulreich clarified that the security radios would include walkie-talkies for the teachers to use as an extra security measure.

Council member Feliciano questioned what the first round of funding was for. Ms. Peloso-Ulreich said they didn't receive an explanation and they were only made aware that other municipalities received it.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye questioned if everything that was supposed to be done at the schools already been implemented. Ms. Peloso-Ulreich replied no and explained that they need to wait for the Mayor to sign off and then they will receive the funds. When they receive the funds, renovation of the bathrooms will be organized. Co-chair Taylor-

Moye thanked Tina Peloso-Ulreich attending the meeting tonight and providing the information.

Clyde Nicholson, member of the public was allowed to speak. He suggested that in the future before the funding requests are submitted, the matter should be brought before the Board of Education to discuss what needed priority wise is and to ensure which schools have the greatest need. He said he thought that having this information would make it easier to determine a schools priority list. Ms. Peloso-Ulreich responded that they held tours of the school buildings and different departments and the needs of each school were noted based on the tours and questioning of teachers. Overall, they were thorough in their overview of each school.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye recapped and relayed that a certain amount of funding was submitted at the different schools and then the state came back with the terms and a recommendation of what should be spent on a particular school.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** CO-CHAIR TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**

Co-chair McBride commented that she understood the grant was earmarked to be used for early childhood programs, however; she stated that if she could have a say what they could spend the money on, she wouldn't have chosen walkie-talkies, she would have chose other improvements or equipment. Overall, she said she understood that the funds would be used as recommended.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNED

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services