

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2010
6:30 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Taylor-Moye; Co-chair, Brantley; Co-chair, Martinez, Bonney

OTHERS: T. Papa, Director, Lighthouse Program
Henry Chisolm, CT Post *and* Quinnipiac University student

Co-chair Taylor-Moye called the meeting to order at 6:44 pm.

Informational Session with Tammy Papa, Director of Lighthouse Program regarding the services that are provided for the children in school.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye updated that this was an informational session to receive a summary of what the program does for children.

Ms. Papa referred to the folder contents distributed. She noted that the information on the right pocket of the packet explained what the program was all about. She further noted the budget for the year was \$1.3 million.

Ms. Papa went on to review the description of the program and the agencies that they partner with. She said they serve 2,700 children per day, inclusive of a number of different activities; such as: math and engineering. She gave an overview of the program that consists of kids that come to the cafeteria after school. They have a snack, and take a break before they go into the regular activities; such as homework help, science and math program, arts & crafts, chess, creative writing etc. and she pointed out that there is always some type of physical activity. They are trying to focus on the older kids, to give them an additional choice and encourage independence. They also provide the opportunity for them to take ballroom dancing for grades 6 through 8.

She mentioned that the fee is \$5.00 per week or a maximum of \$20.00 per week, that is determined by the household income. She explained that if there are additional kids in

the family, they have some scholarship money to allocate to a second child, so this results in never turning anyone away, because they accept federal and state funds. She referred to the sheet of information (Lighthouse Site Listing) that outlined the schools the program is conducted and who the providers are for those sites.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked how the sites were chosen. Ms. Papa said they aren't required to bid out for the program. There is no formal bid process, however, there is a requirement to go through specific development training. And as long as they adhere to the guidelines, they they will be funded to run the program.

Ms. Papa further mentioned the details regarding staff people in reference to how they handle the hiring and termination of the coordinators if necessary.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked the number of staff there was at each site. Ms. Papa said the staff was between 7 and 12 people.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked what the child to staff person ratio was. Ms. Papa said the ratio was adequately equivalent to the number of children they service, at approximately 2 staff people for every 25 children.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked who gives out the homework help. Ms. Papa said there are no formal credentials required to help with homework. The staff that help with homework, work with a peer professional or a certified teacher.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked how the peer professional gets paid. Ms. Papa said they get paid through the agency. They're contracted for \$155k and contracted to serve seventy-five (75) kids, but it's ABCD's responsibility for hiring all the staff to serve those kids.

Council member Martinez asked the number of teachers on staff. Ms. Papa said that depends on what each site decides they want to offer at the school. But generally, there are 1 or 2 certified people at each school. In essence, one person oversees the program and the other two people are certified. She expressed that there are some phenomenal professionals that are involved with the program.

Council member Martinez asked if they combined this program with the tutoring program. Ms. Papa said yes. They offer tutoring services to the students in the district. She noted that they are one of the providers out of 10 or 11 and the second largest provider in the district, in addition to what they do with the Lighthouse Program. They recruit as many kids as possible to sign up for the program.

Ms. Papa stated that the tutoring starts sometime during November and they provide approximately fifty (50) hours to each child.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked about the November tutoring program and if this program will help with the *"No Child Left Behind"* concept. Ms. Papa replied absolutely. She said most of the kids are exceeding the goal and they tend to excel.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye questioned whether the students get help from the teachers if they require extra help. Ms. Papa said no, there's a two week time frame to sign a child up for extra help if it's needed. Then the district takes all the applications where they can only serve 1,200 kids and they then take the lowest performing kids first. Ms. Papa further explained that they work with the coordinator to find a student that has done well to help support the tutoring program.

Ms. Papa reviewed the Job Readiness Skills information in the packet. She stated that there was a big concern about the high school kids not being ready to get a job. So they tried to come up with a program for a 12-session course that will begin in January. This will include a certain number of field trips and the course will include guidance in all varied areas of business. They will start with a small group of fifteen (15) that show drive and ambition in attending the program without getting paid. They will receive training from professionals and they will receive a certificate at the end of the session. This is key, because it will indicate to a perspective employer that the student did well in the program.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked about the child that doesn't have a certain grade average to participate in the training. Ms. Papa said it's not required that they have a specific grade average.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked if a stipend or incentive was given to the students to help them through the process, such as for a bus ticket etc. Ms. Papa said she could almost guarantee that they'll get something, this might be accomplished through talking to perspective employers.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked if the program will run after school hours. Ms. Papa said yes. Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked if the Board of Education would be liable for the kids since it's after school. Ms. Papa said no, because the hope is to have approximately fifteen employers lined up for perspective jobs.

Council member Bonney asked why there were only fifteen kids in the program and not twenty-five kids. Ms. Papa said she thought they might be hard pressed to find twenty-

five employers to participate in the program. She further noted that the school will recommend the student to an employer, but this is based on how well the student did through the program. She pointed out that it was important to assure that a student's skills are up to par to work for a specific employer. The key to the program is training the student to become more marketable in a working environment.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye expressed that it was a great idea. She recalled that she presented a similar proposal to certain parties, but she hasn't been informed of the outcome yet. She expressed that she was real happy that Ms. Papa was putting this program forward.

Ms. Papa briefly reviewed the working permit information contained in the packet. She noted that the student must have a job first, before they can receive their working papers.

Ms. Papa reviewed the newsletter that is issued. She urged everyone to attend the performance that is held at the Klein Memorial Auditorium. She noted that a fund raiser is held and the show is phenomenal. She expressed that it is exciting to see the kids on stage performing. She urged the committee to look over the trends and data of what the Lighthouse Program was doing. She further referenced the "Summer in the City 2010" brochure as a great source of information. She referred to the listing of after school programs by area in the city that consisted of basic contact information.

Ms. Papa referred to the most recent evaluation containing additional data. She noted that the evaluation was contracted out by a top notch firm. She said it was a fair evaluation and the recommendation was good. She referred to page 4 and noted that 24-sites were evaluated. She said on scale of 0-5, none of the schools were below a 3.5 performance rating. She also noted that the demographic information was useful. She briefly reviewed page -5 that highlighted *Perceptions of the Program*; she reviewed page-6 that highlighted information about the academic work, student attitudes, attendance & discipline and parent involvement. She also reviewed the CMT data on page-7 and she noted that the scores were slightly disappointing, because the results weren't as strong as last year. She referred to page-8 that outlined the 2009 CMT Performance Trend Lines. She noted that the performance was slightly stronger during 2009, but there was a slight dip for grades 4 and 5. She commented that there seemed to be a trend of performance drop in 5th grade, although the reason hasn't exactly been identified yet. Council member Brantley commented that perhaps it was due to what wasn't taught and learned in the prior grade. Ms. Papa said she thought it might be due

to the stress of the tough economic times or personal family issues that might occur. Overall, the other grades have done well.

Council member Bonney asked if the Lighthouse Program was available for high school students. Ms. Papa said no.

Council member Bonney spoke about the Peer-to-Peer Program that was previously conducted at Central High School. He mentioned that the program ended and he asked if the Lighthouse Program was affiliated with that program. Ms. Papa said no.

Ms. Papa referred to the funding sources that the Lighthouse Program receives – *per the budget sheet contained in the packet*. She noted that there is a deficit of \$400,024, but they are trying to reduce the deficit through fund raisers, instead of using SES funds. She further noted that the sheet was broken out by different categories with key information. She said they have six (6) full-time people in her office. And she noted that all the training is paid for through the Lighthouse Program, for the professional development geared towards working with the kids.

She urged the committee to review the budget sheet and contact her with any questions if necessary.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye thanked Ms. Papa for all the information she presented.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services