


MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Municipality Accountability Review Board

FROM: Robert Dakers, OPM 

SUBJECT: Proposed Motions Related to Hartford MARB Committee Meetings of August 10, 2018 and September 20, 2018

DATE: October 1, 2018

At its meetings referenced above, the Hartford MARB Committee and the City's Superintendent of Schools and her staff reviewed the school systems finances, including matters associated with:

- Rising special education costs (see pages 19 to 23 of link below to 8/10/18 presentation) and the interest in determining if there are opportunities to improve quality and cost effectiveness in this regard;
- health insurance and the MARB's desire to review cost saving alternatives though use of an health insurance consultant, as in now underway in West Haven through OPM's contract with Segal Consulting (also the Hartford Public Schools benefit consultant); and
- reviewing potential contract issues associated with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Hartford Public Schools and the Achievement First Charter School (link to MOU is below).

Attached below are three proposed motions that have been offered in this regard. Please contact me if you have any questions in this regard.

Attachment

Cc: Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools, Hartford
Mayor Luke Bronin
David Fleig, CFO, HPS
Melissa McCaw, COH

Board of Education Budget Presentation (8/10/18)

[https://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/HPS Presentation to MARB 8.10.18 V4 %28002%29.pdf](https://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/HPS%20Presentation%20to%20MARB%208.10.18%20V4%20%28002%29.pdf)

MOU-Hartford BOE and Achievement First

[https://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/Achievement First Documents %28002%29.pdf](https://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/Achievement%20First%20Documents%20%28002%29.pdf)

ATTACHMENT: PROPOSED MARB MOTIONS: October 4, 2018

Study of Hartford's Special Education Services and Costs

Recommend that the MARB, with the assistance of the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM), work with the Hartford Board of Education and State Department of Education to analyze and make recommendations, with the assistance of outside experts as needed, to do a programmatic and fiscal examination of the services and costs associated with education the special education students in the Hartford school district. Such examination shall include but shall not be limited to outplacements of student identification, program recommendations, IEP structure, etc.

Recommend further that the MARB Committee and Staff report back to the full MARB by December 31, 2018 as to the scope, status and potential cost of such study.

Hartford Board of Education Health Insurance Analysis

Recommend to the MARB that the Superintendent of the Hartford Public Schools be requested to provide to it any analysis done by Segal Consulting (Segal) with respect to a cost analysis of the existing Board of Education health insurance benefit program(s) including any comparison of the benefits and cost with other options (partnership program, new carrier, etc) and further that OPM, on behalf of the MARB and its Hartford Committee, retain Segal for any additional analysis needed for Segal to submit a report to the MARB in this regard. Such report will be given to MARB by its February meeting.

Review of Contractual Matters Associated with the Hartford Board of Education's (BOE) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Achievement First (AF)

Recommend that the MARB seek legal guidance, perhaps in conjunction with legal counsel of the City and/or BOE, from an attorney having the necessary knowledge and expertise to do an examination of all agreements between the Hartford Board of Education and the AF charter school to determine whether all of the sections and provisions such agreements conform, or not, with existing State Statutes or other legal requirements and to outline the action or options that may be needed or available in regard to any legal concerns or issues that may be identified.

Recommend further that the MARB Committee and staff, in conjunction with the City and BOE, report back to the full MARB by December 31, 2018 with the status of this review.