

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD (MARB)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Hartford Subcommittee of the MARB

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, November 17, 2022, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Location: This was a virtual meeting. Meeting materials may be accessed at the following website:
<https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Marb/Hartford-Committee-Meetings-and-Materials>

Call-In Instructions:

Telephone Number: (860) 840-2075

Meeting ID: 375 896 05

Members in Attendance: Kimberly Kennison (OPM Secretary designee), Christine Shaw (State Treasurer designee), Mark Waxenberg, Robert White

City Officials in Attendance: Leigh Ann Ralls, Phillip Penn

OPM Staff in Attendance: Julian Freund, OPM Intern

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 AM.

II. Approval of Minutes:

a. October 20, 2022 regular meeting

Mr. White made a motion, with a second by Ms. Shaw, to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0-1, with Ms. Shaw abstaining.

III. Review, Discussion and Possible Action: Labor Contracts:

a. Board of Education: Building and Grounds Supervisors, Local 818

Mr. Penn provided an overview of a tentative agreement between the Board of Education and the union representing Buildings and Grounds Supervisors. The contract had expired in June of this year. The new contract has a term of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026. It provides for general wage increases of 2.5% per year, including the current fiscal year retroactively to July 1, 2022. The agreement increases the employee premium cost share for the high deductible health plan from the current 20% to 22% by the final year.

Mr. Waxenberg made a motion to recommend approval of the agreement with a second by Mr. White. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion: Special Education: Article

Mr. Penn summarized an article prepared by the School and State Finance Project which described a change made to the Special Education Excess Cost grant formula in the last legislative session which may require a technical fix in the upcoming session. Members also discussed a proposed legislative change by the BOE that would provide funding to support HPS staff attendance of Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings involving Open Choice students.

V. Update: Budget Mitigation Measures

Ms. Ralls provided an update on the City's budget mitigation initiatives. Several grant awards were highlighted including a Byrne Grant for high-risk juveniles in the amount of \$1.3 million and a Dept. of Economic and Community Development outdoor recreation grant in the amount of \$4.3 million. The City also reported that one new hire has been made in the Tax Collector's Office. Recruitment continues for 10 openings in the Finance Department and one in the Budget Office. In addition, BOE has 4 vacancies in their Finance Department.

VI. Update: FY 2022 Audit

Ms. Ralls reported that the General Fund and Capital Improvement Fund have been completed. The Community Development Block Grant Fund is the final fund to submit to the auditor. Work on the Single Audit is currently underway. The City also announced it received the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its FY 2021 audit report.

VII. Other Related Business

The Subcommittee discussed the possibility of reducing the frequency of Subcommittee meetings in 2023. Members agreed to less frequent meetings, with regular meetings concentrated around critical points during the year, such as the audit release and approval of the budget and 5-year plan. Special meetings would be scheduled as needed for labor contracts or other non-routine items.

VIII. Adjourn

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Waxenberg. The meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.