

(ATTACHMENT 1) ACTION ON THE AWARD OF EXCEPTION-TO-BID CONTRACTS

This item initiated by the Administration.

ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the following exception-to-bid requests:

Exception Authorization to Contract with Capital Region Education Council – Montessori Training Center Northeast (MTCNE) for Montessori Elementary Teacher Credentialing Services

The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Capital Region Education Council – Montessori Training Center Northeast for Montessori elementary teacher credentialing services. Capital Region Education Council – Montessori Training Center Northeast will be used to deliver Association Montessori Internationale elementary teacher credentialing for up to 20 MPS employees in a blended 18-month diploma course to be held at Grant Gordon Learning Center.

The District’s Montessori Strategic Plan, designed to protect, enhance, and expand Montessori public education within MPS, outlines the need to bring Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) elementary teacher credentialing here to Milwaukee. The strategic plan outlined that a Montessori professor was to be recruited to come to MPS to provide Montessori teacher credentialing through an already established organization. Creating this relationship allows MPS to address the Montessori teacher shortage by increasing the accessibility of Montessori certification for our adult learners as the closest AMI Elementary Training center is in Minneapolis, MN.

The Montessori Training Center Northeast (MTCNE) is located in Bloomfield, Connecticut, USA and was founded in 2003 as an Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) affiliate. MTCNE is a program managed by Capitol Region Education Council (CREC). CREC is a Regional Education Service Center (RESC) established under Connecticut Statue 10-66 in 1966. MTCNE is known for the quality of teacher credentialing courses provided through a blended satellite format. MTCNE began its first USA satellite course in 2015 in New Haven, Connecticut followed by locations in Winchester, Massachusetts; New York City, Cleveland, Kansas City, Long Island, and Honolulu in the USA; Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in Vietnam; Banjul in The Gambia; and Madrid, Spain.

The exception to bid has been granted on the basis of unique design. (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(vi)).

The contract will run from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. The total cost of the contract will not exceed \$300,000.00.

Budget Code:

SPC-0-0-MSI-NC-EUWT....(Montessori Strategic Plan, Tuition Specialty)...\$300,000.00

Capital Region Education Council

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%
Proposed0%
\$ Value0

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS
Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Contract with CMSTEP LLC for Montessori Secondary Teacher Credentialing Services

The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with CMSTEP LLC for Montessori secondary teacher credentialing services. Vendor will be used to deliver American Montessori Society secondary teacher credentialing for up to 20 MPS employees in a blended 18-month diploma course to be held at Craig Montessori School.

The District's Montessori Strategic Plan, designed to protect, enhance, and expand Montessori public education within MPS, outlines the need to bring American Montessori Society secondary teacher credentialing here to Milwaukee. Montessori secondary credentialing is a condition for new hires, with the caveat that courses be held here in Milwaukee at least every 5 years. MPS has an established relationship with Vendor, having engaged in their services for a prior course, credentialing 16 MPS employees in 2020. Continuing this relationship allows MPS to address the Montessori teacher shortage- by increasing the accessibility of Montessori certification for our adult learners as the teacher credentialing center is located in Cincinnati.

The exception to bid has been granted on the basis of unique design. (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(vi)).

The contract will run from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. The total cost of the contract will not exceed \$202,000.

Budget Code:

SPC-0-0-MSI-NC-EUWT....(Montessori Strategic Plan, Tuition Specialty)....\$202,000

CMSTEP LLC

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

ProposedNA

\$ ValueNA

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Issue a Purchase Order to Fork Farms LLC for Flex Farm Systems

The Administration is requesting authorization to issue a purchase order to Fork Farms LLC for 28 Flex Farm systems, two germination systems, 16 unified tank systems and one multi-farm system for students to learn about agriculture and agribusiness during the school year using hydroponics. Sixteen of the Flex Farm systems will be at Vincent to increase production and provide students in the agribusiness courses to have hands on experience. The additional 12 systems will be sent to elementary schools that are on the northwest side close to Vincent.

The primary purpose of the Flex Farm systems is to provide schools with resources to educate and develop 21st century life skills using the indoor agriculture practices of hydroponics, extend the growing season to increase food production and educate students and the community about healthy and nutritious food sources. With the large

number at Vincent, students from elementary schools can take field trips and see a larger production of the systems.

Fork Farms will provide expertise in agriculture and agribusiness curriculum and management as well as a suite of support services to ensure indoor farming success. Fork Farms technology serves many markets from the home to institutional to commercial enterprise scale. Their systems are the most energy, space and water efficient of their kind. Fork Farms will provide three sessions of onboarding for the schools.

The exception-to-bid has been granted on the basis that this vendor is approved to be used for these services, pursuant to an existing grant, through the US Department of Agriculture (Administrative Policy 3.09(2)(c)).

The total cost will not exceed \$140,107.00.

Budget Code:

MBM-0-S-UB4-VN-ECTS.....(Vincent - Purchases).... \$140,107.00

Fork Farms LLC

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

Proposed0%

\$ ValueN/A

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Extend a Contract with GPS Education Partners, Inc., to Provide Alternative Education Programming

The Administration is requesting authorization to extend the contract with GPS Education Partners, Inc., ("GPS") to provide alternative education programming. The contractor will provide enrollment for up to thirty (30) MPS eleventh and twelfth grade students in the contractor's fully immersive, work-based educational GPSED Program. The program is a comprehensive education and career training program that utilizes the contractor's partnerships with manufacturing businesses, as well as businesses from the construction and automotive sectors, to execute the program. Students who complete the program will earn a full high school diploma from MPS while being prepared for continuing education and career pathways in manufacturing, construction or automotive industries. Through the program, students will participate in the GPS Youth Apprenticeship Program. The majority of students will gain paid work experience at a manufacturing company, and will earn portable industry-recognized credentials through the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council. The remainder of students will gain paid work experience in construction or automotive, and will earn related industry-recognized credentials. GPS and MPS will work together to identify, recruit, and select students from MPS high schools for the program.

This will be an ongoing partnership subject to annual review. Notification of termination of the partnership for the coming year must be given by March 31st of the year prior to the fall start of new classes.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis that the services under this contract are considered one-of-a-kind and competitive vendors do not exist (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(i)).

This contract will run from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024 with two one-year options to extend subject to mutual agreement and Board approval.

The total cost of the contract in the first year will not exceed \$135,000.

Budget Code:

GOE-0-I-1T4-EO-ECTV.....(General School-Contract Services).....\$135,000

GPS Education Partners, Inc.

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

Proposed0%

\$ ValueN/A

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception

Authorization to Issue a Purchase Order to Pear Deck, Inc. for Pear Deck Subscription

The Administration is requesting authorization to issue a purchase order to Pear Deck, Inc. for premium district-wide services. MPS will receive district-wide premium access to Pear Deck and Learning Management Services for one year, August 1, 2023, until July 31, 2024. This product will include premium features for every teacher and student, efficacy reports designed to give teachers and administrators real-time usage and data, custom professional development and training options, and dedicated support for onboarding and implementation.

Since introducing Pear Deck to teachers to encourage student engagement during remote teaching, there have been over 15 million student engagements this school year. Engagements are the number of times a student responded to a formative assessment, exit tickets, discussion prompt, or have created meaningful Flashcards. Over 40,000 students contributed to those engagement numbers. Pear Deck use is widespread across the district. Use of the tool allows all students to answer and not just those who have the answer first.

Each student gets time to think and articulate their ideas. The district's Ambitious Instruction: Accelerating Learning plan focuses on formative practices and engagement and this tool can assist teachers with both of those best practices. It is also a great tool for teachers to use to attend to the whole child and connect with them socially and emotionally with a number of Pear Deck social emotional learning (SEL) templates. Over 160 teachers used the SEL templates. MPS needs to capitalize on teachers' new skills in using this tool, by continuing to provide premium access to all of the features within Pear Deck.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of continuity. (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(E)(1)(b)(iv)).

The total cost will not exceed \$107,000.00.

Budget Code:

ITS-0-S-9Q4-AQ-ETRS...(Curriculum & Instruction - Purchases).... \$107,000.00

Pear Deck, Inc.
HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%
Proposed0%
\$ ValueN/A

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)
Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS
Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Contract with Quality Healthcare Options Inc for Nurse Aide Training Including Classroom and Clinical Training

The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Quality Healthcare Options Inc for training services. Contractor will be used to provide delivery of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Division of Quality Assurance-Approved Nurse Aide Training for approximately 65 high school students per year. Services will include classroom and clinical training.

The Exception to Bid has been granted on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(E)(1)(b)(iv)).

The contract will run from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2026. The total cost of the contract over the three-year period will not exceed \$203,775.

Budget Code:

STW-0-I-YA4-EO-ECTS, \$33,440 (Year 1);
GOE-0-S-CA4-EO-ECTV, \$34,485 (Year 1)...(Career and Technology)....\$203,775
three-year total; Years 2 and 3 will be encumbered on or near the anniversary date of Contract.

Quality Healthcare Options Inc
HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0
ProposedNA
\$ ValueNA

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)
Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS
Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Issue a Purchase Order to Savvas Learning Co LLC for Textbooks and Related Resources

The Administration is requesting authorization to issue a purchase order to Savvas Learning Co LLC for textbooks and related resources.

Contractor will be used to deliver 1,914 tenth-grade grade and 1,488 ninth-grade My Perspectives Student Edition with consumable 2-Volume Set and a three-year digital license to Bay View High School, Hamilton High School, Madison High School, John Marshall High School, Milwaukee School of Languages, and Vincent High School.

These schools were using an approved alternative to the district adopted ninth and tenth

grade English textbook adoption resources. The contractor will provide those six schools

the MPS adopted textbooks, textbook consumable, and digital resources for ninth and tenth grade for a term of three years as a bridge to the current MPS textbook adoption.

The exception-to-bid has been granted on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(E)(1)(b)(iv)).

The blanket purchase order will have a term of August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2026. The total cost of the goods purchased will not exceed \$336,798.00.

Budget Code:

DTI-0-S-8F4-EO-ECTS...(Curriculum & Instruction Contracted Services)...\$336,798.00

Savvas Learning Co LLC

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

ProposedN/A

\$ ValueN/A

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Contract with Sector Management Consulting Group LLC for Executive Coaching

The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Sector Management Consulting Group LLC for executive coaching. Contractor will provide in depth and intensive executive coaching for up to fifteen various senior level district administrators.

As part of the district’s commitment to fostering leadership development across the organization, Contractor will provide one-on-one leadership coaching for up to 15 senior level administrators. Each administrator will engage in individualized coaching sessions and multiple assessment tools will be administered to help construct a personalized leadership development plan.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(iv)). Contractor has a long history of providing executive coaching to senior leadership throughout the district and has a strong understanding of the district’s leadership needs.

The contract will run from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024, (the “Initial Term”), with two additional one-year options to extend if certain performance metrics incorporated into the contract are met.

The total cost of the contract in the Initial Term will not exceed \$90,000.00.

Budget Code:

HXP-0-0-SSF-DW-ECTS.....(Contract Services)..... \$90,000.00

Sector Management Consulting Group LLC

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

Proposed0%

\$ ValueNA

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS

Exception Authorization to Extend a Contract with Truescreen Inc. for Continued Criminal Background Screenings

The Administration is requesting authorization to extend a contract with Truescreen Inc. ("Truescreen") to provide continued criminal background screening for applicants, student teacher/field placement students, volunteers, and vendors.

Truescreen has provided criminal background check screening services to the District since 2013. The services provided by Truescreen have increased capacity, efficiency, and accuracy in processing criminal background checks. Truescreen conducts a nationwide search and a sex offender search. Truescreen's web-based platform is integrated with the District's applicant tracking system so that criminal background checks can be requested with little to no manual intervention.

The District has historically provided this service internally through the Office of Human Resources. The District has and will continue to absorb the cost of criminal background checks on applicants for employment with the district and volunteers. Currently, the District bills colleges/universities and vendors for background checks conducted.

The budget for this service is based upon the cost of services provided by Truescreen and the estimated annual number of criminal background checks for applicants and volunteers for FY23. The budget does not include the cost of background checks billed directly to the vendor or college/university by Truescreen.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of continuity (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(e)(1)(b)(iv)).

This second and final contract extension will run from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024. The total cost of the extension term will not exceed \$300,000.

Budget Code:

BGC-0-0-EMB-HR-ECTS...(Employment Benefits – Contract Services)..... \$300,000

Truescreen Inc.

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

ProposedN/A

\$ ValueN/A

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 Hours

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 Hours

Exception

Authorization to Contract with Urban Learning Collaborative (ULC) for Services to Support MPS Employees with FoRT, Praxis, and Portfolio Licensure Requirements

The Administration is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Urban Learning Collaborative for professional services to support current MPS employees with FoRT, Praxis, and Portfolio licensure requirements. ULC will specifically support employees who have not successfully passed the FoRT or Praxis and are on years three and/or four of a one-year license with stipulations (LWS). In addition, ULC will work with employees who are issued a LWS-3 to ensure the district is providing support outlined in the handbook, which include professional learning, mentoring, and understanding of content standards. ULC will also offer and provide educators seeking Montessori credentialing the required special education course for all Montessori educators.

The exception from the requirement of a competitive procurement process for this contract has been granted on the basis of continuity. (Administrative Policy 3.09(7)(E)(1)(b)(iv)).

The contract will run from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2025. The total cost of the contract will not exceed \$200,000.00.

The total cost of the contract in the Initial Term will not exceed \$200,000.00

Budget Code:

STF-0-0-ATT-HR-ECTS\$200,000.00

Urban Learning Collaborative

HUB PARTICIPATION

Required0%

Proposed0%

\$ ValueNA

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (hours per 12-month contract)

Paid Student Employment Hour Commitment: 0 HOURS

Student Career Awareness Commitment: 0 HOURS