

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation to Approve Agreement FY21-046 – Montessori Education Method Training for Teachers

Introduction

Responsible: Procurement & Warehousing Services (PWS)

This request is to approve the recommendation to award the Agreement FY21-046 – Montessori Education Method Training for Teachers to Barry University. The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC), would like to continue its partnership with Barry University for Montessori Education training and teachers' certification. The term of this Agreement will be from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

FY21-046 will replace FY20-075, which was approved on the May 21, 2019, School Board meeting for one (1) year from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, with a spending authority of \$251,158.

The financial impact to the District will be \$689,143.68.

Goods/Services Description

Responsible: Innovative Programs

SBBC has been a partner with Barry University for the training of district teachers on Montessori learning. Barry University is the only university in the state of Florida offering graduate-level courses in Montessori education. The program is accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education and is affiliated with the American Montessori Society.

Barry University offers extensive training in the theory of Montessori addressing the strategies aligned with subject areas. Teachers at Beachside Montessori Village, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Montessori Academy and Virginia Shuman Young Elementary schools participate in the certification training consisting of eleven (11) courses. Barry University provides a comprehensive Early Childhood program that covers ages three through six (3-6), an Elementary I program which covers ages six through nine (6-9), and an Elementary II program which covers ages nine through twelve (9-12). The courses can be selected based upon the teacher's schedule and need within a two (2) year cycle.

Barry University also offers Secondary I & II certificate training for middle school teachers from Bair Middle, Beachside Montessori Village, and Sunrise Middle Schools. It is the only local school that offers the upper elementary (Elementary II) and middle grades (secondary I & II) training. The program consists of eight (8) courses over two (2) years, components of which are held at Beachside Montessori Village.

The benefits to Broward teachers participating in Barry University Montessori training are the high rigor, including research that Barry requires as part of the graduate coursework. Additionally, Barry University also offers teachers an option to take several additional courses at their own expense to obtain a Masters' degree in Montessori Education for the Elementary I & II certification.

The Elementary I & II Montessori certification allows the elementary teacher to teach in all grades K-5 while Secondary I & II allows the teacher to teach in grades six through twelve (6-12). Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, BTU contract language was amended to include a commitment clause for teachers assigned to teach Montessori core courses at a Montessori school (Article 4 F- Special

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Teaching Assignments). Three (3) year trend data reveals that over 80% of teachers that participate or have participated in the Barry Montessori certification program are still employed at their current location.

Procurement Method
Responsible: PWS

Pursuant to Purchasing Policy 3320 and the Department of Education, Rule 6A-1.012, 11(a), Florida Administrative Code as authorized by Section 1010.04(4)(a), Florida Statutes, and School Board Policy 3320, Section II, G, the requirement for requesting competitive solicitation for commodities or contractual services from three (3) or more sources is hereby waived for the purchase of professional services.

Financial Impact
Responsible: PWS and Innovative Programs

The Barry University contract will provide up to \$689,143.68 for the schools to offer training to their identified teachers at both the elementary and secondary levels.

The funds for this contract will be paid from each participating schools' budgets through allocations received from the District's Innovative Programs Department Magnet funds allocation process and guidelines.

The financial impact amount represents an estimated contract value; however, expenditures for this contract should not exceed \$689,143.68.