

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, 2021.

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.

In light of current conditions, the term of the contract was revised to one (1) year.

The financial impact to the District will be \$183,883.77 for School Year 2021.

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.

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

To provide schools guidance around the spending of Montessori allocations for teacher training, information has been added to the 2020-2021 Magnet Budget Guidelines to provide schools guidance on the expectation that monies assigned for teacher training are to be used for that purpose only.

Barry University offers extensive training in the theory of Montessori addressing the strategies aligned with subject areas. Teachers at Beachside Montessori Village and King, Dr. Martin Luther, Montessori Academy.

Montessori Academy and Virginia Shuman Young Montessori 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.

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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’s 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).

Table 1 below represents teacher survey data collected from schools as of March 2020.

Table 1: School Year 2020 School Montessori Survey Data

School Name	# of Teachers: Whole School	# of Teachers: Montessori Program	# of Teachers Fully Montessori Credentialed	# of Teachers Currently in Training	# of Teachers that have not begun training
Beachside Montessori Village	55	39	15	21	3
Virginia S. Young Montessori	44	37	28	8	1
Bair Middle	42	12	2	3	7
King, Dr. Martin Luther	30	22	5	5	12
Sunrise Middle	66	28	1	1	27
				38	50

**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.

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Financial Impact

Responsible: PWS and Innovative Programs

The Barry University contract will provide up to \$183,883.77 for the schools to offer training to their identified teachers at both the elementary and secondary levels.

In determining the spending authority for this contract, consideration for current conditions, the needs, as indicated by the schools, as well as historical spending data as referenced in table 2 below, was used. With consideration for the factors previously referenced, as such, the term of the agreement was revised to one (1) year.

Table 2: 2019-2020 Montessori Allocation & Spending

2019-2020 Budget Guideline Allocation (inclusive of Barry & Summit Funding)	Barry Expenditures Fall 2019 Term	Barry Encumbrances for Spring 2020 based on current registrations	Barry Projected Summer 2020 Term Encumbered Funds
\$245,078	\$26,910 (Not including Summit Expenditures of \$\$4,800 deducted from the overall allocation)	\$30,398.13	\$89,820 (Not including Summit Expenditures of \$\$4,800 deducted from the overall allocation)

This Agreement was originally brought to the April 21, 2020, Regular School Board Meeting (RSBM). With instructions from the School Board, the item was deferred to the May 19, 2020 RSBM with guidance for surveying school staff as a means for determining the requested spending authority. Table 3 below identifies the needs as provided by Montessori schools, along with the amounts allocated by way of the budget guidelines. Table 3 below represents survey data to that effect for the revised one (1) year term of this contract.

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Table 3: Estimated costs as submitted by Montessori schools relative to their Montessori training plan for School Year 2021 versus Allocated Funding as provided for by Budget Guidelines

	King, Dr. Martin Luther	Virginia Shuman Young	Beachside	Bair	Sunrise	Total
# of Teachers impacted	3	5	20	7	13	48
Identified need for 2020-2021 # of credit hours to be taken at Barry @ \$498.33 per credit	24	60	222	63	120	489
Actual funded amount per the 2020-2021 Budget Guideline	24	46	158	60	81	369
	\$11,959.92	\$22,923.18	\$78,736.14	\$29,899.80	\$40,364.73	
ESTIMATED TOTAL: \$183,883.77						

***Note: Though Barry University charges a one (1) time cost of \$401 per teacher at the start of Practicum I, this amount does not include this fee as no teacher involved in this calculation has indicated they will begin Practicum I in School Year 2020-2021.

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 \$183,883.77 for the 2020-2021 school year.