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Mon, Nov 28, 2022 . 11:01 AM1:24:15Owner: Leonie Haimson

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Testing 123

2:35

123 testing 123

5:54

Morning

6:43

Morning. Sorry for the delay we were having some technical difficulties

6:51

Good morning everyone.

6:55

Good morning

7:04

welcome to Morning everyone.

7:07

Morning Marjorie.

7:10

Morning.

7:12

Wanted to Know chinito

7:17

recording in progress. Okay, good morning. Everyone. It's Greg. Hey Greg.

7:24

Hello everyone

7:32

have to ask is it pronounce my Isha?

7:39

Again right

7:46

you're muted

7:51

my show you're muted.

7:55

Thank you. Thank you for letting me know. Yeah.

7:58

No. Oh, my name is it's pronounced Mahisha I don't know. What my parents were thinking but if I don't dunk the i People call me Marsha. I'll give them a pass. And then it's my Isha but he show okay. Yeah. Ah in the morning. Good morning. By the way, thank you so much.

8:25

Thanks for having me. Yeah. Good morning, everybody. I'm very sorry about the issues this morning.

8:32

Hopefully we are all getting on now. Yeah.

8:37

Everything stopped working at once.

8:42

And everyone in the house is sick except to me.

8:46

I love like everybody.

8:58

Okay, good morning, everybody. We will just give everybody a couple of minutes to join. I know there were some challenges I'm sorry about that. Is everyone needs to be promoted to panelists promoted within James Morgana from early childhood

9:17

Yes, please raise your hand if you need to be promoted to a panelist

9:26

Thank you.

10:07

Everyone able to hear just received the message that someone's unable to hear audio I'm good

11:40

okay.

11:43

Good morning, everybody. apologize for the late delay here and getting our meeting started today. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. And it's nice to all be back together. We are here for our contract meeting in advance of our pet meeting on Wednesday. So thank you all for joining us. You should have received the follow up materials from our briefings held before the holiday and you should all have a copy of the materials that we are going to go over today a list of the contracts if anybody needs any of the materials, please let me know. But at this point, I'm going to turn it over to Alicia to run through our meeting today. As always, please hold your questions to the end when you raise your hand at the end of the meeting. We will call on you when we hear from you. And we also need to know who needs to recuse themselves from any items that we're voting on. So please let us know if there are any recusal is at the end of the meeting as well. And I will turn it over to Alicia but thanks everybody. Thank you, Liz. I just want to do a sound check and make sure everyone can hear me if everyone's able to hear me at this point, or excellent, loud and clear. All right. Thank you, Liz.

13:00

Welcome. Thank you all for joining today's public contracts meeting for November. And let's state it I am Alicia bluey the chief procurement officer of the New York City Department of Education.

13:11

There are 29 contract items that I will be reviewing with you but before we get started, I'd like to highlight that a vote to approve these contracts does not immediately or automatically qualify a vendor for payment there are additional session or processes to get contracts finalized and registered with the comptroller's office. The numbers we post on the agenda, from a budgeting perspective are the highest estimated amounts. The actual spend, and in a lot of cases is often lower and lower and based on services provided.

13:43

I'll take you through each of these items on the agenda. By Category and we'll take questions at the end.

13:50

I'll start with an agenda item number one, which is a request for proposal.

13:55

Request for Proposal is a method a solicitation method that is utilized when it is not possible to fully detailed scope of work to be provided and when it is necessary to evaluate proposals on a number of factors including experience, staffing, suitability for needs and quality of the vendor. In addition to price contracts are awarded to the vendors whose proposals are determined to be the most advantageous to steel IE and a lot of times these contracts contracts under this category are submitted on behalf of the division of early childhood education.

14:29

The very first one is for the AR 1344 which is the COVID impacted neighborhoods RFP. The contract term is five years the estimated annual spend is approximately $1 million.

14:46

The this is a request to contract with a vendor who is deferred who to actually defer to start up their program to fy 23. This was an RFP that was released in FY 22 with a goal of adding 3k in pre K Services and communities heavily impacted by COVID.

15:03

Item number two on the agenda is another request for proposal submitted on behalf of the division of early childhood education. It is for the AR 1395 3k and pre k for all services contract term proposes for four years, the annual estimated spend is approximately $13 million.

15:23

This RFP was released in the fall of 2021 to add additional slots for the FY 20 to 23 school year to demand for 3k and pre K Services. This agenda item reflects an additional batch of six batch of programs for six vendors across 11 locations that have been cleared.

15:44

Item number three on the agenda is multiple tasks or a contract otherwise known as an MTech and M Tech is an open ended solicitation used to procure a high demand services primarily professional development and direct student student service and allows users schools and central offices. The choice to select from a pre qualified pool of vendors. pre qualified means that they meet the requirements of the solicitation, awarding a contract does not bind us to do business with each vendor.

16:13

First attack is being submitted on behalf of the division of teaching and learning. It is for periodic periodic assessments with a vendor named MetroTech. The contract term being proposed as five years the estimated annual spend is 300,000.

16:31

periodic assessments are tools utilized by schools to assess student needs and our progress in specific areas. 13 vendors were recommended for awards and one is being presented this month when she tech Inc provides proficiency assessment development services to English language learners for grades K through 12 that can be used to identify students that require instructional support and language skills and an evaluation of their progress.

16:58

Item number four on the agenda is another infintech being submitted on behalf of the division of teaching and learning it is for professional development for school leaders and teachers. The contract term being proposed is five years. The annual estimated spend is $560,000.

17:17

Professional divert development services is made available for school leaders and teachers to support instructional strategies designed to increase students learning and academic success.

17:27

We're requesting to contract with two vendors today. A school to school Research and Design program consists of leadership development through diagnostic assessments and post secondary readiness services. By developing specific benchmarks for teachers and students.

17:45

And the second vendor strategic inquiry consulting will provide professional development via their practice based research approach. This is offered for two educators at all levels for the implementation of their Witzy writing is thinking through strategic inquiry program out of which analyzes the needs of struggling students and provides targeted language and literacy instruction.

18:11

Item number five on the agenda is another impacting submitted on behalf of the Office of School Safety and youth development is set and is for services to promote safe and supportive school communities. It's a five year contract with an estimated annual spin of $120,000. And this impact gives DLP, schools and offices the option to purchase professional development services on promoting respect for diversity facilitation skills, brush restorative approach and establishing a positive school culture. Today we're requesting to contract with one vendor.

18:46

Peer connect, whose programs are focused on restorative practices that help strengthen school communities through activities that support social relationships and connections among students and staff, both professional development and youth workshop center on relationship building youth leadership and contract resolution skills conflict resolution skills.

19:05

Item number six on the agenda is another impact. It's been submitted on behalf of the Office of Policy evaluation for a system wide program evaluation, or system wide Program Evaluation Services. This contract term being proposed is five years the estimated annual spend is approximately 1.8 million and this MTech gives Doa schools that office has the option to procure evaluation services for various instructional programs and professional services including needs assessment, logic models, surveys, focus groups, implementation evaluations, Outcome evaluations and data analysis summarized and written reports. were requesting to contract with one vendor today, LNG research and evaluation. They provide evaluation services that include literature reviews, evaluation, plan, development, focus group guides and interim and final reporting.

20:04

The next item on the agenda is Item number seven is the beginning of our competitive sealed bids.

20:11

Now a competitive sealed bid is a solicitation method where specific specifications can be made sufficiently and sufficiently detailed and exact from an award of a contract to a responsive and responsible bidder solely on the basis of price.

20:29

except in the case where it's awarded based on the basis of best value, which is best value in the dealies interest.

20:39

As first this is the only competitive Sylphide on the agenda is being submitted on behalf of the division of school facilities it is for the repair of plumbing system. It is a five year contract being proposed and the estimated annual spend is 3.2 million.

20:56

Today we're requesting the contract with two vendors, Charles A Dimino, and genuine Plumbing and Heating Inc. They will provide the labor and materials and Supervision Required necessary to test mate to test maintain, repair, modify and make additions to make additions to and install plumbing systems and equipment in schools and other DoD building. These contracts will replace an expiring contract and these services are being contracted out because DOD does not have the appropriately licensed and trained staff to perform this work.

21:32

The next item on the agenda is Item number eight and I just want to talk a little bit about this. This is the start of our negotiated services. But this one in particular requires a little more of an explanation. So item number eight on the agenda is a negotiated service for the 4410 Special Education enhancements. It was inadvertently presented in September in October panel as an RFP, an error that was caught by the controller's office when 18 of 20. Contracts are submitted for registration on late October and negotiated services as a method of procurement use when it is not practical or possible to utilize other competitive methods. All negotiated services must be approved by the committee on contracts, which is composed of representatives from the DLs division of contracts and purchasing myself, Office of Legal Services Office of Auditor General and other offices whose duty is to review and provide recommendation on proposed procurements.

22:26

In this case, it was determined that the requirements were such that only select vendors that could satisfactorily meet the requirements, and it was not practical to alter the requirements to enable competition. On November 15, the Committee on contracts convened and approved a negotiated service for the 20 contracts voted for at previous pap meetings and an additional 47 That will be proposed for about that November panel. To rectify this error from previous month's panel. You will be asked to vote on technical changes to the to to to the to the contracts as it did properly referenced negotiated service but in the term amounts have not changed a lot. I'll take you through this one in particular. So for this 4014 A special education enhancement it's a two year proposal, with an estimated annual spend 31 approximately 31 million and assists the special education enhancement contract that allows programs to provide special education services and an integrated classroom setting that also extend to the program. They learn from six hours and 20 to six hours in 20 minutes. The DoD is committed to strengthening the sector and today we're presenting an additional 47 contracts.

23:45

I remember nine on the agenda is a negotiated service being presented on behalf of the Office of Community Schools. It is for community school services. It is a two year term with an estimated annual spend of 1.1 million.

23:59

The community school strategy offers districts serving low income communities appropriate resources to help students thrive academically. And the proposed vendors will support and provide technical assistance by facilitating partnerships among participating schools, nonprofits, local businesses, and government agencies that connect vital services to the school's making each the hub of its community by meeting the health and safety health, safety and social services, service needs of students, parents and communities. The initiative will help improve student achievement This is a request to contract with three SeaBIOS replication Center for Educational innovations and creative connections to provide service at three newly identified schools.

24:49

Item number 10 on the agenda is the start of our amendment amendments or revisions to existing contracts and while it may appear to be retroactive to ra reflect the original contract start date.

25:03

The First Amendment is being submitted on behalf of the Office of Community Schools. It is for community school services it is a two year term with an estimated annual contract value of 5.8 million and we're requesting to amend 19 contracts to allocate additional funding received from City Council for two years FY 22 And fy 23. To provide community school services. The contracts are retroactive due to delays and registering the base contract. The contracts will return to their face value in FY 24.

25:38

Item number 11 on the agenda is amendment being submitted on behalf of the division of early childhood education. It is for FCC and market rate amendments is the contract term being proposes three years. The estimated annual spend is $3.8 million FCC and our programs offered to infants toddlers and 3k. And wholesaling by licensed qualified childcare providers. This contract amendment will allow FCC animal family childcare networks to add additional services school day and year 3k which were not previously offered in the setting. This amendment will be effective for the remainder of the contract period.

26:24

Item number 12 on the agenda is being submitted as an amendment being submitted on behalf of the Office of Safety and development. It is for FY 22 crisis management systems.

26:36

It's a one year contract and it's actually retroactive. The annual the annual spend, contract value is $40,000. And we are requesting this amendment to add channels to school for research the list of schools that Sheltering Arms, Children and Family Services. Inc provide so that they are adding as they provided crisis management anti gun violence services to to this particular school under the FY 22 City Council award.

27:12

It was it's it's retroactive because the vendor was awarded the additional funding after the fiscal year began.

27:20

At a number 13 on the agenda is another amendment being submitted on behalf of the division of early childhood education. It is for article 67. It's an amendment to the birth to five contract. The contract term is about four years the estimated annual spend is approximately $1.4 million and this is a wind down of the bundled amendments that have been presented at previous meetings. This amendment allows with provision of funding for reimbursement for fingerprinting slot three allocations increase salaries for lead teachers who became set up for an increase salaries for lead teachers who became status certified.

28:04

Item number 14 on the agenda is another amendment being submitted on behalf provision of early childhood education. Is for Rs 1216 Headstart amendments. It is for a contract term of four years with an estimated annual spend of 1.4 million and this similar to the previous agenda item provides for additional funding authorized by the Federal Office of Headstart these proposed amendments were refused but reviewed by the hedged Policy Council and governing board and they represent the same button under the amended amendments provided for an agenda item number 13.

28:43

Item number 15 is the start of our extensions and we can this is an extension of an existing contract for a period of time. It's usually a year or two depending on the status of solicitations and progress. So the first item is being submitted on behalf of the Office. of Nutrition, Food and Nutrition Services FNS. It is an extension of our bakery products contract this one year with an estimated annual spin of $30 million and we're requesting this contract extension extension with operative aid Corp. To ensure that bakery products are available for purchase while the new procurement is being prepared. The replacement request for bid which opened in December of 2021 could not be awarded due to various item specifications requiring updates. This extension will allow sufficient time for the completion of the new solicitation item number 16 on the agenda is another extension being submitted on behalf of the Office of Pupil Transportation. It is for the expansion of school bus routing software, a two year extension with an annual estimated spread of approximately $45,000 And this just requests us for the extension of a contract with Edublog our current school bus routing software vendor while we roll out the new bus routing software, with via which is expected to be complete by the end of 2024.

30:14

Item number 17 on the agenda is an extensive being submitted on behalf of the division of early childhood education. It is for the FY 23 early learn. It's an extension for one year, with an annual estimated span of approximately $1 million.

30:32

Early learn our programs made available to infant and infants, infants and infants and toddlers between the ages of six weeks and two years. This is a request to extend the contract for vendors who occupy a city owned or leased space to ensure continuity of services and avoid disruption item number 18 on the agenda is another extension being submitted on behalf division of early childhood education. It is for FY 23 up K extension. It's a one year extension with an annual estimated span of $62,000 that you keep up K historically offers half day programs serving the same student populations and pre K 3k programs. This is a request for a one year extension for the list of vendors to ensure continuity of services and avoid disruptions.

31:22

Item number 19 on the agenda is the last of our extensions. It's being submitted on behalf of the Office of Food and Nutrition Services. It is for the extension of the uniforms for students support service staff. It's for one year and it's estimated annual spend is approximately 449 Belden this request is for the extension of a contract with Hanover uniform company, provider of uniform for cafeteria pest management, cafeteria and pest management employees, resource chefs and warehouse staff while the new procurement which was launched in July 2022 is completed item number 20 on the agenda is MWBE discretionary method solicitation and this method allows for the award of contract for up to 500,000 soon to be a million for goods professional services, standard services and construction directly to currently city certified minority and women owned business enterprises.

32:27

In their definition states without formal competition but it is a competitive solicitation method it's just the requirements aren't as restrictive to in order to promote the use of MWBE as the first item item number 20 is being submitted on behalf of the division of instructional information informational technology. The it is for services related to the CEC elections reporting enhancements project it is a one year contract with an estimated contract value of 185,000. The CDC elections reporting and back end enhancements project will improve reporting features and capabilities to improve the automated CC election process. These enhancements will provide DoD users the ability to run and run reports and be armed with data needed to make business decisions regarding CCLI elections.

33:26

Additionally, it will improve the data exchange between vote net and the DLP system.

33:31

Item number 21 on the agenda is another MWBE discretionary method. It is being submitted on behalf of di T is for a senior network infrastructure engineer to provide network operation support contract term is two years. Annual estimated spin is approximately 219,000 It is the IITs mission to ensure staff that staff and students have the technology knowledge, abilities and resources necessary for for an excellent education while in power and collaboration across the organization to develop technology for the next generation. And this is a request to contract with a vendor experience with Cisco catalyst Nexus ASR ACI platform, firepower, AASA, firewalls and f5 load balancers. This Senior Network Engineer and infrastructure engineer will serve as a technical support person responsible for configuration and maintenance of a hybrid cloud data center, wireless access network and troubleshooting apple and for troubleshooting application or resource, maintain a high level of support and have number 22 on the agenda is an MWBE discretionary and it's the last MWBE. Discretionary has been submitted on behalf of VA it is for the support of Parent University enhancement project. It is a one year contract with an estimated spin of approximately $490,000 Parent University is a course registration and management system where New York City families can register for free trainings on a wide range of topics. It also provides a platform for DOD and community partners to share important news updates and information with families. This request to contract is a request to contract with a vendor to provide IT professional services to support and enhancements for the DOE Parent University system.

35:29

Item number 20 grant agenda is beginning of our listing applications. Now listing applications may be established for the purchase of content provided directly to students materials that materials that are available only from the publisher, artistic performances and admission to programs offered by cultural institutions. Each listing application presented the panel goes through a comprehensive screening process by a diverse population of licensed Doa teachers that utilize an established rubric ensuring that each contact content of each product is appropriate and culturally responsive.

36:08

The all listing applications are submitted on behalf of the division of enterprise purchasing it the first one is for contract for educational software with human relations media, all contract terms for listing applications have seven years the annual estimated spend for this particular item is approximately $94,000 And we're requesting to contract with human relations. Media Center to produce a wide range of videos about the lives choices, issues, health and well being of today's students for grades K through 12. All videos are aligned to curriculum standards and are research based to provide students provide support to teachers and students. They offer single DVDs, video streaming and complete learning packages which includes videos, student act and student activities consisting of roleplay roleplay, quizzes and fact sheets all in PDF format. The software programs can be used remotely or in the classroom item number 24. On the agenda is the second of the listing application. It is for educational software with an annual estimated spend of $25,000 and we're requesting to contract with Teach town to producer of teach town the producer of curriculum and educational online programs that measurably improve the academic behavioral and adaptive functioning of students with moderate to severe disability their programs utilize evidence based best practices derived from Applied Behavior Analysis in debt, improving students, academic outcomes and providing life skills that enable children with autism and related development disorders to thrive in an academic setting.

38:06

Next item on the agenda is another request a listing application for educational software.

38:15

The annual estimated spend is approximately 421,000. And this one is a request to contract with school binder who is the producer of peach foods programs, which are a suite online performance and educator development software from K to 12. School. The peach Pro is an online program that enables principals to give feedback to educators to better prepare and support their students. The P foods collection provides a set of visual tools to collect real time evidence of teacher practices aligned to in classroom and instructional skills directly support educators in the classroom with close to real time feedback and strategies for improving performance.

38:59

Item number 26 on the agenda

39:04

the listing application being submitted on behalf division of purchasing and it's for technical.

39:11

This is a company a contract being proposed with an annual estimated span of 4.5 million and this is a request to contract with McGraw Hill, publisher of educational materials and English language arts, math, science and social studies in grades K through four I will also provide SPP exam preparation workbooks and the programs are also available in Spanish. These resources.

39:37

Resources also provide teachers with support in implementing culturally responsive pedagogy that values family knowledge and experiences of students. And it can also be it can be used remotely or at

39:52

27 indeed gender is another request to contract with a textbook provider and this one effectively for textbooks and ancillary materials. The annual estimated spend is approximately 65,000. And it's a request to contract with books foundations, who is the publisher of inquiry based fiction and nonfiction programs.

40:15

These programs are designed to inspire students to explore essential ideas, teach students to learn to read and to influence the use of critical thinking. The materials are provided for students in grades K to K through 12 are also available in Spanish. The resources provided by the vendor also provide teachers with support and implementing the culturally responsive pedagogy is which values students, families, students and families knowledge and experiences and it can be used remotely or in a classroom item number 28. On the agenda is the last of our listing applications, textbooks and ancillary materials with an annual estimated spin of 109,000 and we're requesting to contract with John Wiley and Sons, the publisher of student textbooks and instructor materials for advanced courses, honors and vocational curriculum in science, social science, computer science, math, business and culinary arts for grades nine through 12. These resources also provide teachers with support and implementing culturally responsive pedagogy that values the family's knowledge and experiences of students that can be used remotely or in classrooms.

41:30

The last item on the agenda is an emergency contract.

41:35

It is being submitted on behalf of the Office language and access it is an emergency declaration for translation and interpretation services.

41:47

A contract the contract term is for two years. The annual estimated spend is approximately $3 million and we're requesting two contracts legal interpretation services LIS solutions and language line services in accordance with the DoD procurement policy and procedures section 309 to provide on site interpretation services for central offices including online events and over the phone interpretation for the DoD linguistica international the incumbent vendor recently informed Do you have a desire to step away from contracts due to challenges caused by the pandemic to ensure that to ensure that there's minimal disruption of services to limited English proficient families, the deal II must replace this vendor immediately. Which is which is why the emergency contract was issued.

42:41

The contract would be retroactive to November 1 of 2022. And that is the last agenda item for today's meeting. And I will turn it over to the floor to Liz so that she can conduct a question and answer.

43:01

Thank you. Members if we'd like to go through rounds of questions we just ask that you please raise your hand and we will call on you in the order that we see your hands raised. And just as a reminder, if there's anything that you must recuse yourself from, please let us know. Tom, I saw your hand go up first, please feel free to ask your question.

43:25

Thank you.

43:27

So I do want to start right off the bat saying I sit on the board of Northeast Bronx.

43:35

So I have to be I have to recuse from Agenda Item number eight and two of my children go to TEDx for 38. So I have to recuse myself from Agenda Item Number 10.

43:56

So, I guess my first question is going to be connected with Agenda Item Number 26.

44:10

It's actually a couple of questions around this item. But I guess for me, it's $31.6 million over seven years is a lot of money. Right? And I'm wondering, is this mostly online materials is a print material as well. And I guess the reason why I'm asking that question because, you know, my kids are seventh, eighth, ninth and 10th grade, and I think I've never seen them carry a textbook home. So if they've never had a textbook, and we're spending $31.6 million over seven years for a contract with McGraw Hill, I want to know what we're getting for that.

44:56

And the last part of this particular item and you know, out, you know, ask questions about the next round. You know, once everybody has set a chance, is you mentioned that the materials will be provided in English and Spanish.

45:12

I do want to remind everyone that there are 10 languages, major languages that you know, are recognized by the Department of Education as we'll make sure that any contract we go into, doesn't just provide materials for two of those languages that they need. To

45:34

provide languages for his many provided materials in as many languages as we can, that are recognized in those like top 10 languages. Thank you.

45:51

Thanks, Tom. Won't get back to on what we're purchasing. Specifically from McGraw Hill, I could see a lot of commentary about textbooks that a lot of schools have moved away from those items. So I'll we'll get back to you on that specific link.

46:14

And I can just add a note on the contract and I apologize I'm not an expert on this, but these are notes that I have from staff is that I just want to note that that contract amount Tom that you're quoting is it's not what the amount that we're actually spending Max spend on the contract. So I just want to make sure that's clear. It's very fun. I think generally when we come up with the annual estimated spend, it's usually based on historical spend does not necessarily mean that that's what the spend is going to be on the goal forward. So.

46:49

Great, thank you. And, Tom, we can come back around for a second round of questions. I want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to speak.

46:57

No problem. Thank you. Sheree. I saw your hand go up next, if you'd like to ask your question.

Hi. Yes. Good morning, everybody. It's really piggybacking on what you guys just said about the textbooks. So that being a max for the amount. Is there a discount in there because we did some looking online advocates reached out to us and we did some looking online and we got there. So based on this number, there's no discount for do we buying in bulk for this. And so it's like what negotiation what percentages are we getting for booking and dealing with McGraw Hill? I am taking into consideration that McGraw Hill is the big behemoth and has taken over a lot of other companies but still if we're doing this type of amount of business with them. I want to deal I want to break up a discount you can do that.

Yeah, you're absolutely correct an entry you know we we actually did receive some communication on this this morning and didn't know in the RA that there were no discounts on listing price, but we're investigating that because to me, it doesn't make sense. You guys have a very, very strong point. So we're going to be looking to thank you

48:14

Jesus Christ or we go around for a second round of questions. Are there any panel members who'd like to ask first round of questions?

48:27

Tom, feel free to go ahead and ask the second question. Thank you. It's actually I have another question about another issue, but I do want to ask to kind of follow up question to this particular item.

48:39

I get the the idea that the number here is not like what we're going to spend.

48:48

But it's what it's based on historical spending. But there's a part of me that feels like and forgive me, but it does feel kind of like smoke and mirrors, right. The reason why is because these numbers don't just come out of thin air. They're based on something and you know, you know, because the question I've asked before it's like if we you know, if you're coming up with this number, what's it based on? Right? And it's based on how much we spend in the past and the DOE has been really good at anticipating how much money is going to spend. So, you know, to make it sound like you had this $31 million contract over 77 years. But, you know, it's estimated now it's probably what you're going to spend because forward, you've always spent it right. So I, you know, I just want to be kind of clear about that. Because it sounds like we're asking for $31 million, but we're actually not going to spend it and the thing is we've asked for this kind of money in the past and we've spent every dime of it. It's what we based his number on, so I just have to go there.

49:59

So my second question is around Agenda Item Number 25, which is school binder.

50:10

So I'm curious to know, if we're if we're talking about another one of these $7 million contracts, right? I mean, seven year contracts, right? So 2.9 million over seven years. I'm interested in knowing how did principals collect feedback from teachers about teachers before we got to this point, right. So you know, how, what did that process look like? How much did that cost? Right? Because it seems to me like we're about to drop almost $3 million over seven years, into a contract for principals to evaluate teachers. And I'm curious to know what that looked like before this point, and what the cost of it was. I want to be able to compare what we're asking for, to what we've already done.

51:00

And we'll have to get an answer. We'll have to go get back if he's back from I'm assuming we're gonna have to go back to one of our deputy Chancellor's on this because this is a listing application fill. It doesn't just allow the school the opportunity to utilize vendors who provide these services. So it's really at the discretion of the actual school. So I don't know how easy it will be to collect that information. Maybe we could provide information on who has provided this type of service in the past, but in order to provide feedback about you know, how it was used, and you know what was used, we would have to get we'd have to dig a little bit deeper.

51:40

Thank you.

51:46

Thank you.

51:48

Hello, members, please feel free to raise your hands if you have any questions.

51:58

Tom, do you have an additional question?

52:03

Yes, I do.

52:06

So, agenda item number 14. The Headstart I guess the early learn track, right. So I you know, I appreciate that.

52:21

The DOE reached out to the Head Start policy council

52:28

but I am I'm also curious to know what did the Head Start policy council actually has to say about this? Not that you you know you you kind of reached out informed them what they actually say like, they like what this the way this contract look that they provide any ideas for the better like I'm curious to know.

52:53

What did the pilots Council actually have to say?

52:58

This is James here. I will have to get back to you. I'll try to do it on this call. I'll text someone who was on that call because I wasn't and just want to make sure I don't misrepresent their feedback. So let me circle back with the folks that are on that call and see if I can get a response to you either on this meeting or shortly after. Thanks, James.

53:16

You know, our Policy Counsel guy kind of spot my heart, right? Yeah. I always asked. But yeah, I'd appreciate answer to that one.

53:27

Right now. Thanks.

53:31

Thanks, James. Thanks, Tom.

53:35

The other members have questions

53:41

I had a I had a question. I just I lost what item number it was, but it did speak of the Women in Business MWBE and clear on I just didn't I wasn't clear on what the purpose of

54:08

I'm sorry, I wasn't. Uh, we gonna dive a little deeper in this at a certain point. Why shouldn't your first meeting and generally we usually kind of do an overview meeting with new panel members so we can do that with you? So if you'd like we can do we can schedule some time live. And we can we can have for my show because but yeah, I recognize that there are a lot of these items.

54:38

We will circle back after this meeting and set a time for you to just do a deeper dive with Alicia on the contracts or Thank you. No problem

54:55

feel free to go. Siri we've got you've got a question to you both asked questions before. I'm gonna let Sheree go ahead because she only asked one and then we'll circle back to you Tom.

55:06

I just wanted to bring forth once again, because of on again, two issues, the assessment. I believe last month we did assessments that were so necessary for our students. And then now we have a different vendor, a different type of assessment. And I was rereading it I was taking the time to remediate again to see what's focused on some this assessment is seems to be focused on making sure that we're meeting New York state standards for next step kind of thing. So I want to understand how this contract different from last month contract and tons of it's an assessment for our students. And then once again, the I forget the number since

56:05

the professional development force school leaders and teachers so I'm gonna keep hitting this run because we keep getting and we now have them August September, October, November, four months in a row and there has been professional development contracts on our contract, and each time What are we doing to evaluate the effectiveness of these professional development opportunities, these different one different vendors different things? And I'm not seeing where we're getting anything that says, Yes, this is working. We should continue supporting that or this isn't working that much. Let's let's switch to it. Or, you know, all of these are working like we can't keep just doing professional development without you guys telling us it's working like parents of teachers, not parents, teachers, Superintendent, whoever are utilizing it. I want to see which districts are utilizing it. I want to see where we're doing the due diligence to make sure that it's effective that where we're spending this money is

57:15

I can just quickly add on that we hear you on that what we're trying to do is figure out how to provide a briefing on the larger ask of understanding the effectiveness of PD. In the short term. What we've done is we did provide in the follow up materials that went out this morning this spend request that was asked at our briefings. So we do have the FY 23 assessment spend for you that was sent out and I am working to put together a briefing on the larger question and we will get back to you.

57:53

Is there anyone else who wants to add to that?

58:00

Okay, so we'll go back for another round of questions.

58:04

Tom, feel free to go ahead please.

58:08

Thank you. Yeah. To that point, right.

58:14

You know, we have what was this fiscal year 2223 spend? Right. So there is 10 point 3 million on materials. And 21 point 7 million roughly on services was $32 million.

58:40

And, you know, Sheree asked a question and I think that it you know, it really does deserve an answer right like if we spent $32 million on assessments, right?

58:52

Where'd that money go? You know, like, how, how effective was it? Like, what was the impact? Right? Like, how did it work?

59:02

What was the span? Right? I think the those are real questions that is there a real answers. And, you know, I sat around this morning, for example, and I've done this a couple of times in my tenure on the pet where I just took all the contracts in a particular month and just added them up. Right, like this month.

59:24

It's $250 million.

59:27

Right? Like, where does $250 million go in one for Hate? Like we vote on it? What happens to that and how do we know what the contracts we voted on work? Right? Like, how do we know? How do we know that? Right? We vote on these things. We move on to the next month, and we vote on these things we move on to the next month. I think we want to know how well is this money being spent? And I guess I'm just saying that part because actually went through and added up like this year.

1:00:04

And, you know, what, this year with somewhere in the like, three and a half billion dollar range. Right. And, you know, I I guess it's more of a comment but you know, I look at our schools, for example, that have had their budgets cut. And I look at environments where, you know, schools have to make choices about programming right, and what we can keep and what we can get rid of, but, you know, here we are kind of business as usual, over the course of a year voting to approve almost $4 billion in contracts, right? Like there's nowhere in all of this where we can figure out how to save some money so that we don't have to let go over 1000 teachers and get rid of like arts programs and after school programs like I think about that every month. And you know, I would love to know how or what the DOE is doing on an ongoing basis. To evaluate these contracts, the necessity of them, and how we can use cost savings from these contracts to actually keep teachers in classrooms and pay for librarians and those kinds of things.

1:01:29

Thanks for that commentary, Tama.

1:01:32

I, I agree with you on Apple statement. It makes perfect sense. I wish I had a proper response to provide to you I think that it's something that I think senior leadership is actually looking into at present. I'll chime in here Tom, thank you for that. I think you know, as far as a member of the leadership team, we have been asking similar or the same questions. Just be aware that many of these contracts have already been in the queue and gone through the process and as we think about what's going to be best for students in schools and how best to allocate our dollars to get the greatest return on those investments. Those are the conversations that have been going on. And as we decided to determine what works versus what doesn't work so we can make written investment and what works to ensure we're getting the kind of academic success we know our children can achieve and so your words are not lost on me. I want everybody to know from a leadership perspective, the leadership team, we're having some of these same discussions and even thinking about a zero based budgeting planning process for next year to ensure we're allocating the dollars to get the greatest impact and return on those dollars.

1:02:43

necessarily answer this specific. No, it doesn't, but I appreciate the answer. Right. And I definitely appreciate the so what I will say is I saw Greg Tandoor per second so I won't take too long.

1:03:00

I thought about that when I added up the numbers right. And like I was careful not to go prior to January right like, like I I started from February because it was like the first opportunity this panel had to meet right and during the course of this year, this calendar year, and we spent $3,566,058,695 That's what we've committed to a contract. And I I think about that number in the context of you know, what does it look like in schools right? And that's why I asked that which I appreciate you answer like moving forward, how do we evaluate these contracts in a way where we can find savings and you know, have those savings work out in a way where we can not have to make cuts to our schools, so I definitely appreciate that and I just needed to say it out loud. That's the last thing I will add to that is mine that so much of the school's dollars that have gone to schools, the OTPs other than personal expense dollars are not necessarily allocated to personnel but certainly the quality of the program. And the assessment is critically important as an important role in the process of educating our children and building our communities.

1:04:29

Thank you, Craig. That was very helpful.

1:04:33

Greg, I did see your hand up before as well.

1:04:37

I noticed we were going to have a briefing on this topic, but this comes up regularly. I mean, it came up last month and I brought it up last month. I think it's really important. That we that we have that deeper understanding as to the outcomes. And what are the goals of some of these contracts and what I know they're actually meeting those standards for goals. I think that briefing is going to be really important to make sure that we are able to kind of address some of these these issues and we'll have the same kind of concerns coming up meeting after meeting.

1:05:21

Sure you please go ahead.

1:05:24

So it's not that we're always you know, complaining about a contract. I do want to uplift and uphold and support the emergency contract for language and vision services as someone who worked with that division during the last election cycles. I understand how important and necessary they are and having a vendor that really can provide for the unique needs of DOD. So I support that I do appreciate the information in the RA that's talked about the increased pricing. So I guess my commentary, my, my glow, that's my glow, my glow will be is it possible for us to quickly and or have senior leadership put into place some policy on stuff that we're not that we really

1:06:20

more than just doing like a checklist of making sure that we provide is we're making sure that they're utilized? There was nothing more painful and hurtful for me is like we would get fight to get the language on and then there's like one or two people on you know, and so knowing that the cost is now increasing, and we're still trying to get fast and people don't want it to be wasted. And a lot of that is because of even when we send out notices with meetings or where we're providing new services. It's not put out in the language. It's we just put it out there but we're not really making an effort to make sure that people with these language issues, know that they can come to any event come to anything to read anything that they are able to access it because if they know it then they are prepared. And then we won't have two interpreters sit for an hour and a half with no one on the line, you know kind of thing. And so I just think in terms of the cost is going up, which you know, I understand, because it's labor intensive, but then also we're putting in place as an agency, like we want to minimize as much of the waste. So let's actively with intention, really put forth these things to support these contracts and these monies going to this contract

1:07:46

Yes, Christina

1:07:51

Thank you, we appreciate the support and Christina You are on the line. Do you have anything you want to add?

1:07:57

Hey, no yeah, that I mean completely agree with everything that you're saying. We definitely try to add you know citywide level and also at CDC meeting superintendent event there are all events happening to work to have the post office request the translation and promotion.

1:08:20

Because yes, the engagement is step one, right? We can provide interpreters but if the community's not aware, then exactly what you're saying the interpreters sit there talking to them. So that that engagement is definitely a really big part of the overall system for translation and interpretation services for families.

1:08:40

Thank you, Christina.

1:08:46

Members, are there any additional questions this afternoon?

1:08:54

Oh, sorry, I forgot to raise my hand. I was looking for the hand button and that one that I got one last question.

1:09:02

I remember sick.

1:09:05

So I asked this during our briefing call. And I was just reading through the response here. And so it seemed like this was about evaluating community schools, right. And from what I'm reading here, it was like, Well, you know, 21st Century Community Learning Center was kind of, not a good example. For us to explain how this contract works.

1:09:39

Because the question I have was, why are we paying someone to evaluate our community schools like why don't we have capacity to do that in house? And I don't think that this answer is clear for me like, why can't we do it?

1:09:59

So I was just wondering if anyone could give me some clarity

1:10:11

Are you?

1:10:14

Morning my name is Jonathan Wilson. I'm the director of operations for the Office of Policy and evaluation. We're the one proposing sometimes the short answer is we've lost a lot of staff. We've lost a lot of headcount over the last several years. And we simply have fewer staff and there aren't people to conduct those evaluations in house.

1:10:39

Also, it's not that so much that it was a bad example. It's just an example. Right? This is one of those impacts that goes up to schools, superintendents offices, other program offices, our office is not really the primary user of this contract or this this, you know, attack.

1:10:58

So it is made available to other divisions and superintendents offices for for program, specialized program evaluation.

1:11:08

We do a lot of system wide evaluation in house.

1:11:11

But we you know, we have a limited number of staff that keep shrinking. It's shrunk very significantly over the last several years. And you know, we've lost a lot of staff through attrition, and we haven't hired anybody since the start of the pandemic to do this work. And we also there are some programs that the program leaders you know, want to have a truly independent external evaluator come in, either because of funding reasons or, you know, concerns about potential political implications where they'd like to bring in an external, you know, same way you bring in an external auditor sometimes even though you have internal accountants, sometimes people like to bring in external evaluators.

1:12:05

Thank you, I appreciate that. I just like the cost of it, right. Like it's $9 million over five years. And you know, we when we say that, you know, one of the reasons that it was said over and over again, was a short staff. I wonder how much of $9 million over five years, you know, can go to the padding staff, so that we can and I get the auditing part, right, but I also think that's why we have agencies like the comptroller's office, etc, that does these kinds of audits.

1:12:42

So I'm, I'm just curious to know, it just seems like we're taking $9 million out of an office that does this work and putting it into a company that does this work, and it's how it's landing. I may, I may be wrong. It's just how it's landing on me. So yeah, I'm not terribly comfortable with the answer.

1:13:13

We, we would certainly welcome the opportunity, headcount funding, anything to hire to hire staff, we actually you know, just to be clear, this is not, you know, it is an MTech. So it goes out for use to all those other districts. We don't actually have in our office, any funding to use this contract.

1:13:32

So it's essentially, if we had staff to do the work, we would do the work as an attack essentially that work in cost is spread around to the users of the contract.

1:13:50

Thank you.

1:13:54

Thank you, Jonathan. Thank you, Tom.

1:14:01

Are there any additional questions from members?

1:14:06

I saw a question that was placed in the chat by Sheree, but I just want to make a point of clarification on listing applications. Now each of the vendors are required to agreed that they are providing us in an ability to have the term is the most favored nation clause, which they must provide us the lowest price in the country. Now, I think that I think inquiring into the McGraw Hill contract to to verify that the wording is accurate.

1:14:38

And I'll get back to you on that. But as I understand that we are receiving discounts from McGraw Hill, I'm just trying to verify how much of a discount we're receiving. But per our contract requirements for listing applications. We are supposed to receive the lowest pricing in the nation.

1:14:58

At least if we have if we don't have the answer to that question yet, like in terms of the terms of this contract.

1:15:09

Why is it absolutely necessary? That we vote on it

1:15:18

it's not necessary. We were it was only brought to our attention that the RA discounted no discounting so I just want to look into it.

1:15:31

I guess this is while you're looking into that right?

1:15:36

We don't have the answer by Wednesday.

1:15:40

Like, is it? Is it possible to pause this one while we get that answer is very disruptive to the system.

1:15:51

Just contracts doesn't get voted on until we have the answers to those questions.

1:15:55

What I think would actually happen, I mean, because of the highly utilized, highly utilized contract, that it would disrupt the serve. I believe that the contract our previous contract had already expired. But it's always at your discretion, the panel discretion to choose whether or not that would be a concern, if it's going to be disruptive that we would come back next month without maybe the asset that we're looking for we go ahead and approve it.

1:16:26

I'm gonna I'm gonna like I said I'm gonna circle back with the team because as I understand that they did the it seems that the RA was just worded inaccurately and so I want to make sure that I understand the details before I provide a response and hopefully it will be before Wednesday's meeting. I think it's important to getting the lowest price in that regard. Save money, but I don't want to have the potential that it might cause disruption or loss of service to the students

1:16:59

response to you guys right away.

1:17:03

Thank you

1:17:08

are there any additional questions this afternoon?

1:17:16

Okay, we want to get that information out as soon as possible. Before we go, I want to talk about the resolutions first second, I propose that we have two resolutions for our pep meeting. reso one would be items one through seven, nine and 11 through 29 and reso. Two would be items eight and 10.

1:17:44

I got that right.

1:17:46

I guess those are the two recusal okay. Yeah.

1:17:53

That's all move forward.

1:17:56

Thank you again. Thank you, everyone.

1:18:00

Thank you have a good afternoon. We recording stopped. We have a good day.

1:18:08

Bye, everyone.

1:18:11

Thank you. Everybody.

1:24:20

arrow\_forward