Panel for Educational Policy
Contract Agenda
December 14, 2011

Item: 1 **Description:** Web-based comprehensive legal research services.

Term: 2 years 11 months **Options:** None **Funding:** Tax Levy

Division: General Counsel and Legal Services **Contract Type:** Requirements

Vendor Name	Estimated Annual Amount
Thomson Reuters dba Westlaw Public Records Atlanta	$86,700

Item: 2 **Description:** Manage and facilitate the delivery of a Technology Literacy Assessment Tool (TLA) for 10 New York City middle schools identified as participants associated with the Title II grant award.

Term: 1 year **Options:** None **Funding:** Federal/State Title IID

Division: Division of Talent, Labor & Innovation **Contract Type:** Full Value

Vendor Name	Annual Amount
Eastern Suffolk BOCES	$700,000

Item: 3 **Description:** Chess classes for elementary and middle school students in New York City Title I funded schools.

Term: 1 year **Options:** None **Funding:** Tax Levy - City Council

Division: Division of Contracts and Purchasing **Contract Type:** Full Value

Vendor Name	Annual Amount
Chess in the Schools	$200,000

Item: 4 **Description:** Dropout prevention services for 40 students and their families from EBC High School for Public Service and El Puente Academy for Peace & Justice.

Term: 1 year **Options:** None **Funding:** Tax Levy - City Council

Division: Office of School and Youth Development **Contract Type:** Full Value

Vendor Name	Annual Amount
El Puente de Williamsburg, Inc.	$33,000

Item: 5 **Description:** Dropout prevention and intervention services under a McKinney-Vento Homeless Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program grant.

Term: 1 year **Options:** None **Funding:** State Grant - Vendor Named

Division: Office of School and Youth Development **Contract Type:** Full Value

Vendor Name	Annual Amount
Big Educational Fundamentals	$90,145

Item: 6 **Description:** Professional development in support of a Teaching American History grant for teachers in District 22.

Term: 2 years **Options:** None **Funding:** Federal Grant - Vendor Named

Division: Community School District 22 **Contract Type:** Full Value

Vendor Name	Annual Amount
Literary Classics of the US dba/Library of America	$60,000

Item: 7 **Description:** Instructional textbooks and ancillary materials for use in classrooms.

Term: 7 years **Options:** None **Funding:** Various

Division: Division of Contracts and Purchasing **Contract Type:** Requirements

Vendor Name	Estimated Annual Amount
Sussman Sales	$4,000,000

Item: 8 **Description:** Published and copyrighted library and reference materials.

Term: 3 years **Options:** None **Funding:** Various

Division: Division of Contracts and Purchasing **Contract Type:** Requirements

Vendor Name	Estimated Annual Amount
World Book, INC.	$540,000

Item: 9 **Description:** Add-on item. Substance abuse prevention, violence prevention and intervention services for New York City public and non-public schools.

Term: 1 year **Options:** None **Funding:** Tax Levy & Reimbursable

Division: Office of School and Youth Development **Contract Type:** Full Value

Vendor Name	Annual Amount
Center for Social and Emotional Education dba National School Climate Center	$168,000

Item: 10 **Description:** Add-on item. Ambulance transportation for special needs student transportation.

Term: 1 year **Options:** None **Funding:** Tax Levy

Division: Citywide Program Admin **Contract Type:** Requirements

Vendor Name	Estimated Annual Amount
Park Ambulance Services DBA American Medical Response	$74,400

Item: 1

Description:

Web-based comprehensive legal research services.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION
TO UTILIZE A DCAS CONTRACT WITH THOMSON REUTERS d/b/a WEST PUBLISHING CORP.

Contract Cost	Funding Source	Contract Term	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive?	Contract Type
Total: $245,650 **Annual: $86,700**	Tax Levy	2 Years and 11 months	DCAS Contract	No	Requirement
Vendor Name & Address	Thomson Reuters d/b/a West Publishing Corporation (Westlaw)				
	610 Operman Drive				
	Eagan MN 55123-1396				

Service Requestor/Contract Manager	Division of Contracts & Purchasing Contact
Richard Ross, Director of Operations	Angela Edwards
Office of the General Counsel	Division of Contracts & Purchasing

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Approval is requested to use a Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) contract with Thomson Reuters d/b/a West Publishing Corporation (Westlaw). The estimated cost of services will be $245,650 covering the period of December 30, 2011 through November 30, 2014. This contract will eventually replace all needs of the Office of Legal Services currently met by a contract with LexisNexis that expires October 31, 2012.

DISCUSSION

The various offices serving the General Counsel (OGC) currently utilize LexisNexis on a daily basis as a research tool for pending litigation, arbitrations, and other administrative processes. However, a recent Westlaw subscription proposal demonstrated an intuitive web-based research platform that can be customized by practice area for the various OGC end users along with additional content not offered by Lexis agreement (e.g. summaries and analyses covering public sector labor law, tools for tracking and sharing internal knowledge, as well as tools for state legislature journals, committee reports, floor testimony). As the number of pending litigations and arbitrations increase, these features will allow the OGC staff to be more efficient in the research process.

The Westlaw subscription proposal was reviewed by OGC senior staff members for content and functionality and by the Division of Instructional and Information Technology for network connectivity and security access protocols. Both groups found the service appropriate for use.

The Division of Contracts & Purchasing (DCP) and the School Construction Authority (SCA) will be able to utilize this subscription to conduct legal research and public records searches of prospective vendors, providing an additional benefit to the Department. Each office has not yet concluded that their needs will be completely met by this service.

If not, those offices will continue to augment this service with other web-based research tools.

Westlaw's annual subscription rate is $482 per person with 180 users. LexisNexis' subscription rate is $527 per person for the current 130 users. Negotiations with Westlaw resulted in the DOE receiving the first month of the subscription free. Pricing through this agreement is lower than available through the NYS Office of General Services contract. Based on the above, prices can be determined to be fair and reasonable.

VENDEX revealed a pending civil investigation by the Office of Attorney General of Florida regarding certain Westlaw marketing practices. We found that the Florida Department of Management Services discovered similar issues but continued to contract with Westlaw, albeit using an amended contract in order to address these practices. The federal debarment list and Vendor Compliance Investigation Performance (VCIP) reports did not reveal any significant adverse information for Westlaw. Westlaw has provided satisfactory service to the Department in prior contracts. Based on the above, Westlaw is determined to be responsible.

In view of these circumstances, it is in the best interest of the Department to utilize the aforementioned competitively awarded DCAS contract for the period proposed.

Item: 2

Description:

Manage and facilitate the delivery of a Technology Literacy Assessment Tool (TLA) for 10 New York City middle schools identified as participants associated with the Title II grant award.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR ONLINE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Annual/Total Contract Amount	Funding Source	Contract Term	Options	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive?	Contract Type
$700,000	NYSED	7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012	None	Section 1-03 (b) of DOE Procurement Policy	Yes	Full Value

Vendor Name & Address	Eastern Suffolk BOCES 15 Andrea Rd. Holbrook, NY 11741 Attention: Jeanne Weber / Donna Cahill

Service Requestor / Contract Manager	Division of Contracts & Purchasing Contact
Stacey Frazier Director of Operations Office of Innovation Zone	Maxine Needle Director of Grants

PURPOSE

Authorization is requested to contract with Eastern Suffolk BOCES, acting on behalf of the New York State Education Department (SED) to organize a statewide online Technology Literacy Assessment (TLA) system for middle school grades under the Enhancing Education Through Technology grant award program, known as Title IID. Only funded LEAs are participating in this assessment, which is required by the federal legislation. SED directed the use of this vendor.

DISCUSSION

Eastern Suffolk BOCES will manage and facilitate the delivery of a Technology Literacy Assessment Tool (TLA) for 10 New York City middle schools identified as participants associated with the Title II grant award. Said services will be provided by Generation YES, operating under a contract with Eastern Suffolk BOCES. Teachers from the 10 pilot schools will receive professional development this year and serve as turnkey trainers for future implementations, when all schools across New York City will have the opportunity to participate.

The Technology Literacy Assessment tool will assess students in technology literacy and application skills using a project-based model, provide a framework for curriculum and instructional materials development, and provide opportunities for professional development in technology assessment for teachers.

Twelve Lead Educational Agencies (LEAs), drawn from the awarded grants under Title IID throughout New York State, collaborated with the SED to select the vendor in January 2011. In the spring of 2011, the LEAs, the SED, the DOE program team, and the vendor determined that the pilot program would not begin until the 2011-12 school year. The work plan was finalized only in October 2011, which caused the contract to be retroactive.

The grantor's program is a NYSED Title IID grant program. A contract for personal services is necessary because the contract is funded by a grant. To have the services provided by another party would be contrary to the grant.

DCP reviewed information regarding the vendor's background and Generation Yes (as the subcontract contractor) in the VENDEX system and found no significant adverse information. The vendor and its subcontractor are deemed responsible.

The total price for the contract services was established by the grantor.

Item: 3

Description:

Chess classes for elementary and middle school students in New York City Title I funded schools.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR CHESS-IN-THE-SCHOOLS

Annual/Total Contract Amount	Funding Source	Contract Term	Options	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive?	Contract Type
$200,000	City Council	7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012	None	City Council Allocation Section 1-03 (c) of DOE Procurement Policy	Yes	Full Value
Vendor Name & Address	Chess-in-the-Schools 520 Eighth Avenue, Floor 2 New York, NY 10018 Attention: Marley Kaplan					

Service Requestor / Contract Manager	Division of Contracts & Purchasing Contact
Gilberto Palmer Director, Vendor Management Division of Contracts and Purchasing	Maxine Needle Director of Grants

PURPOSE

Authorization is requested to contract with Chess-in-the-Schools to provide chess classes to elementary and middle school students in New York City Title I schools throughout the five boroughs except Staten Island.

DISCUSSION

Chess-in-the-Schools runs classroom, after-school, weekend, and summer programs to utilize chess as an educational tool that promotes learning and helps young people develop skills in critical thinking and problem solving. Each classroom that participates in the program is assigned a Chess-in-the-Schools-trained instructor. The instructor teaches a one-period chess lesson once a week during the school day. The program is offered in five classrooms during the fall semester, and again in the spring semester in five different classrooms, thereby enabling new groups of students to participate each semester. The target populations are third graders in elementary school and fifth graders in middle schools. The program includes the instructor and all the materials needed to learn and play chess.

Chess-in-the-Schools also offers:

- After-school chess clubs that meet once a week for one and a half to two hours throughout the academic year and is open to all students at the schools.
- Summer programs and competitive chess tournaments where students are given the opportunity to compete in an official tournament setting.
- A College Bound Program, which provides academic and college preparation services for high school students who have participated in the school program and Project Chess, the teacher training institute that trains New York City public school teachers to teach chess.

This contract is retroactive because notification of the budget allocation was not released until June of 2011. The planning phase of the program started in July.

A competitive sealed proposal was not done for this procurement and a contract for personal services is necessary because the City Council discretionary allocation specifically named this vendor for the amount stated above. To have the services provided by another party would be contrary to the grant.

DCP reviewed information regarding the vendor's background in the VENDEX system and found no significant adverse information. The vendor is therefore determined to be responsible.

Chess-in-the-Schools charges schools participating in the Classroom Instruction and After School Clubs $2,500 for the school year.

The total price for the contract services was established by the City Council.

Item: 4

Description:

Dropout prevention services for 40 students and their families from EBC High School for Public Service and El Puente Academy for Peace & Justice.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR DROPOUT PREVENTION SERVICES

Annual/Total Contract Amount	Funding Source	Contract Term	Options	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive?	Contract Type
$33,000	Tax Levy / City Council	7/1/11 – 6/30/12	None	City Council Allocation Section 1-03 (c) of DOE Procurement Policy	Yes	Full Value
Vendor Name & Address	El Puente de Williamsburg, Inc. ("El Puente") 211 South 4th Street Brooklyn, NY 11211 Attention: Theresa Doherty					

Service Requestor/Contract Manager	Division of Contracts & Purchasing Contact
Toby Reyes Senior Operations Analyst Office of School & Youth Development	Maxine Needle Director of Grants

PURPOSE

Authorization is requested to contract with El Puente de Williamsburg, Inc. ("El Puente") to provide comprehensive youth- and family-oriented dropout prevention services for 40 students and their families from EBC High School for Public Service (K545) and El Puente Academy for Peace & Justice (K685).

DISCUSSION

El Puente provides services to students who have been identified as having one or more of the following high-risk characteristics: ESL and/or newly immigrated, low credit accumulations and/or low attendance, and pregnancy and/or teen parenthood. The vendor will provide mentoring, class advisories, leadership training, and community service organizing at the schools during the school day. Academic support services, college prep, mentoring, job skills training, pre-professional arts training, and leadership development for youth as well as school and parent/community groups will occur at El Puente's Bushwick Leadership Center and the El Puente Taylor-Wyeth Center after school. The facilities at these community centers include classrooms, as well as computer lab, dance studio, art studio, and community meeting spaces, and are available to participants.

A competitive sealed proposal was not done for this procurement and a contract for personal services is necessary because the City Council discretionary allocation specifically named this vendor for the amount stated above. To have the services provided by another party would be contrary to the grant.

This contract is retroactive because notification of the budget allocation was not released until June of 2011. The planning phase of the program started in July.

DCP reviewed the vendor's background in the VENDEX system and found no significant adverse information. The vendor is determined responsible.

The price for services was established by the City Council.

Item: 5

Description:

Dropout prevention and intervention services under a McKinney-Vento Homeless Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program grant.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE DROPOUT AND INTERVENTION SERVICES

Annual/Total Contract Amount	Funding Source	Contract Term	Options	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive?	Contract Type
$90,145	NYSED	9/26/11-6/30/12	None	Vendor Named in Grant, Per Section 1-03(b) of DOE Procurement Policy & Procedures	Yes	Full Value

Vendor Name & Address	B.I.G. Educational Fundamentals 175 Hancock Street Brooklyn, NY 11216 Attn: Joseph Bertrand, President

Service Requestor/Contract Manager	Division of Contracts & Purchasing Contact
Vincent Chin Senior Operations Manager Office of School and Youth Development	Maxine Needle Director of Grants

PURPOSE

Authorization is requested to contract with B.I.G. Educational Fundamentals (B.I.G.) to provide dropout prevention and intervention services under a McKinney-Vento Homeless Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program grant. Approximately 75 students living in temporary housing at four shelters in Brooklyn will receive these services.

DISCUSSION

B.I.G. Educational Fundamental (B.I.G.) will provide students in grades 3 through 8 with academic enrichment, homework assistance, tutoring, and character and leadership development. Students will also take part in physical activities to increase opportunities for positive interaction, bonding, and self-awareness. The program will operate after school four days a week for three hours per day with a goal of serving on average 20 students per session.

B.I.G. will collaborate with DOE borough content experts, site family workers, staff, and parents to provide consistent and enriching supports to students.

A contract for personal services is necessary because the contract is funded by a grant, and the grant award specifically named this vendor for the amount stated above. To have the services provided by another party would be contrary to the grant.

This contract is retroactive because the DOE has been working collaboratively with the vendor for the past several months to revise and edit various parts of the work plan and budget.

DCP reviewed information regarding the vendor's background in the VENDEX system and found no information that should preclude and award. The contract manager's office has experience with the vendor providing these services and confirms that they performed satisfactorily. The vendor is therefore deemed responsible.

Pricing was established by the New York State Department of Education.

Item: 6

Description:

Professional development in support of a Teaching American History grant for teachers in District 22.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY

Annual/Total Contract Amount	Funding Source	Contract Term	Options	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive?	Contract Type
$60,000 / $120,000	USDOE	7/1/11 – 6/30/13	None	Vendor Named in Grant, Per Section 1-03(b) of DOE Procurement Policy & Procedures	Yes	Full Value
Vendor Name & Address	Literary Classics of the US dba Library of America 14 E. 60th Street New York, NY 10022 Attention: Laura Gazlay					

Service Requestor/Contract Manager	Division of Contracts & Purchasing Contact
Jessica Kaplan Senior Director of Strategic Planning Office of School Programs and Partnership	Maxine Needle Director of Grants

PURPOSE

Authorization is requested to contract with Literary Classics of the US dba Library of America (LOA) to provide professional development in support of a Teaching American History (TAH) grant for teachers in District 22 schools as well as select schools in Districts 17 and 18.

DISCUSSION

Library of America will conduct six training workshops for a total of 30 hours for 20 teachers each year for two years. These workshops will consist of three components. The first component will be a presentation on one of several themes or subtopics, including the Jacksonian Era, World War I, and the League of Nations. The second component will provide teachers with the opportunity to discuss the presentations and their ongoing readings with the lecturers. The third component will conclude the workshops with a teacher support session. The workshops will take place at a DOE location.

This contract allows for continuation of this program for the last two years of a five-year grant. Previous contracts covered the grant's first three years. This contract is retroactive because the Grant Award Notification (GAN) from the U.S. Department of Education was not received until September 2011.

The grantor's program is a Teaching American History Grant. A contract for special services is necessary because the contract is funded by a grant, and the grant award specifically named this vendor for the amount stated above. To have the services provided by another party would be contrary to the grant.

DCP reviewed information regarding the vendor's background in the VENDEX system and found no significant adverse information. The vendor has been determined to be responsible.

Pricing for the contracted services was established by the grantor in the grant award.

Item: 7

Description:

Instructional textbooks and ancillary materials for use in classrooms.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION
TO PROVIDE TEXTBOOKS AND ANCILLARY MATERIALS

Estimated Annual/Total Contract Amount	Funding Source	Contract Term	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive?	Contract Type
$4,000,000/ $28,000,000	Reimbursable, Tax Levy, City Council	03/01/12-02/28/19	Listing Application	No	Requirements
Vendor Name & Address	Sussman Sales 250 East 54th Street, Suite 8B New York, NY 10022				

Service Requestor/Contract Manager:	Division of Contracts and Purchasing Contact
Jennifer Davilla Director, Instructional Materials Unit	Susan Dick-McKeon Chief Administrator, School Based Procurements

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Authorization is requested to contract with the above-referenced vendor to provide textbooks and ancillary materials to all public and participating non-public schools.

DISCUSSION

Sussman Sales is the exclusive reseller of various publisher lines such as Feldheim Publishers, Scobre Press, CIS Books, Time for Kids and Parents and Company. These publisher lines cannot be obtained through any other vendors. Because these materials cannot be purchased in the open market, a competitive sealed bid process is impractical. The proposed contract requires that the prices the DOE pays be the lowest offered to any client. Accordingly, a cost/price analysis by the Vendor Research and Price Analysis Unit determined prices to be fair and reasonable.

A comprehensive background check revealed that an investigation was conducted by the Special Commissioner of Investigation (SCI) that indicated Sussman Sales was working as a subcontractor to Socratic Learning Incorporated. During that time Sussman Sales was distributing computers to schools and students in violation of Socratic's contract with the DOE. However, SCI found that the distribution was done by Sussman Sales at the behest of Socratic Inc., and SCI concluded that no recommendations regarding Sussman were warranted. The background check also revealed that Sussman Sales failed to update their VENDEX questionnaire to list this investigation. Sussman has since updated their VENDEX to include the SCI investigation. In view of Sussman's over 40 years of satisfactory service and despite the matters listed above, Sussman Sales is considered responsible.

The estimated contract amount is based on prior expenditures under their previous contract.

Item: 8

Description:

Published and copyrighted library and reference materials.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE PUBLISHED AND COPYRIGHTED REFERENCE MATERIALS

Estimated Annual/Total Contract Amount	Funding Source	Contract Term	Options	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive?	Contract Type
$540,000 / $1,620,000	Reimbursable, Tax Levy, City Council	Three Years	None	Listing Application	No	Requirements

Vendor Name & Address	World Book, Inc. 233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2000 Chicago, IL 60601

Service Requestor/Contract Manager	Division of Contracts and Purchasing Contact
Jennifer Davilla Director, Instructional Materials Unit Division of Contracts and Purchasing	Susan Dick-McKeon Chief Administrator, School Based Procurement Division of Contracts & Purchasing

PURPOSE

Authorization is requested to contract with World Book, Inc. to provide published and copyrighted library and reference materials.

DISCUSSION

World Book is the sole publisher of various library and reference materials. These materials include the World Book encyclopedias and supplemental materials such as the Science Power curriculum for grades 5-8. The Science Power curriculum content is arranged in 95 lesson plans that cover topics from living things and ecosystems to Earth science, space, and energy. Because these materials cannot be purchased in the open market, a competitive sealed bid process is impractical.

The vendor has stated in writing that no other institution, agency, school district, municipality or organization will receive better pricing than that being offered to the DOE. As such, pricing for these materials has been determined to be fair and reasonable.

The contract amount established for the vendor is based on their prior contract's expenditures.

A comprehensive background check conducted by the Vendor Research and Price Analysis unit found no significant adverse information. The vendor is therefore deemed responsible.

Item: 9

Description:

Add-on item. Substance abuse prevention, violence prevention and intervention services for New York City public and non-public schools.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND AN EXISTING CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES - RFP # 1C320

Estimated Contract Amount	Funding Source	Extension Term	Original Procurement Method	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive?	Contract Type
$168,000	Tax Levy and Reimbursable	One Year	Request for Proposals (RFP)	Negotiated Service	No	Requirements

Vendor Name & Address	Center for Social & Emotional Education (dba National School Climate Center) 545 8th Avenue, Rm 930 New York, NY 10018

Service Requestor/ Contract Manager	Division of Contracts & Purchasing Contact
Robert Weiner Chief Operating Officer Office of School and Youth Development	Angela Edwards Director Central Office Procurement

PURPOSE

Authorization is requested on behalf of the Office of School and Youth Development (OSYD) to extend for one year a contract with the Center for Social & Emotional Education (dba National School Climate Center) to provide substance abuse prevention, violence prevention, and intervention services for New York City public and non-public school students. The estimated total cost is based on FY11 expenditures for this contract.

DISCUSSION

In a review of the Student Support Services contracts, OSYD determined that some overlap occurred with the Prevention and Intervention contracts. To eliminate duplication of services and reduce the administrative burden of managing contracts from two separate solicitations, services provided under Prevention and Intervention contracts will be fully incorporated into the Student Support Services solicitation released in September 2011.

The Committee on Contracts approved the extensions of three contracts for continuity on July 29, 2011. However, due to an administrative error, the extension of this contract was not included in that request. This extension will also avoid the interruption of services to schools and central offices while the DOE releases a competitive Multiple Task Award Contract (MTAC) solicitation to procure these services for a longer term.

Of the four possible service components listed in the original solicitation for Prevention and Intervention Services (1. professional development, 2. parent and community outreach, 3. direct student services such as classroom and assembly presentations, and 4. evaluation services), National School Climate Center will provide, at the same prices, terms, and conditions, Components 1 and 4.

The base contract was competitively procured and prices have not changed since the commencement of the original contracts. The prices have therefore been determined to be fair and reasonable.

No significant adverse information has been identified concerning the above listed vendor's background. Furthermore, the vendor performed satisfactorily under the prior contract, and is therefore deemed responsible with respect to this extension.

Item: 10

Description:

Add-on item. Ambulance transportation for special needs student transportation.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION

To enter into a negotiated service with Park Ambulance Service dba American Medical Response

Estimated Contract Cost	Funding Source	Contract term	Procurement Method	Is Contract Retroactive	Contract Type
$ 58,900 total	Tax Levy	10 months	Negotiated Service	Yes	Requirements
Vendor Name & Address	Park Ambulance Service dba American Medical Response				
	930 Flushing Avenue				
	Brooklyn ,New York 11206				

Service Requestor/Contract Manager	Division of Contracts & Purchasing Contact
Eric Goldstein, Chief Executive Officer	David Ross, Executive Director
Nutrition and Transportation	Division of Contracts & Purchasing

PURPOSE

Approval is sought to extend a contract with Park Ambulance dba American Medical Response (AMR) to provide pupil transportation with advanced life support to and from school via ambulance for a special education student. The services are for 10 months beginning September 1, 2011.

DISCUSSION

A contract with AMR to provide ambulance transportation for special education students expired on February 28, 2010. Said contract was replaced with a new award to Transcare New York. While some parents are resistant to a change in service provider for fear that the new company will not understand the needs of their child, the Department is careful to see that the new provider is fully qualified and able to provide the necessary high quality services required. In the case of one student, however, the extreme medical condition of the child resulted in his doctor, the parent and school recommending that the current provider not be changed. AMR's contract was initially extended for 2 months through the end of April, 2010. It was then extended for an additional 13 months from May, 2010 through June, 2011. The daily rate for both extensions was $620.

AMR has agreed to continue to provide service for this school year at the same daily rate of $620. That is $200 higher than the daily rate for Transcare's services under their contract. It will, therefore, cost $19,000 more for the additional months of services with AMR. This will be submitted to the Committee on Contracts prior to registration.

OPT has confirmed that AMR has provided satisfactory service and are confident they will continue to provide good services for this student.

Noteworthy information identified for prime vendor Park Ambulance Service included a VENDEX caution that in May 2011, American Medical Response (AMR), the parent of Park Ambulance, entered into a settlement agreement with the US Department of Justice in which AMR agreed to pay $2.7 million to resolve allegations that AMR and other affiliated companies knowingly submitted falsely inflated claims for transportation services to federal health insurance programs. AMR's settlement did not admit wrongdoing, but included the creation of a Corporate Integrity Agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services. Additionally, two matters during 2011 involved AMR paramedics, one having been found guilty of sexual abuse and another having been found guilty of tampering with medication. In both instances, the paramedics were terminated. While the first matter would ordinarily give us pause in the case of a larger engagement, they don't really apply in the unique circumstances of this procurement.