

Welcome Welcome

So great, so thank you all.

As you know, this particular meeting is going to be all about with preK and we have four items So I'm going to do my usual thing and go through them and invite you all to ask questions on each item as we go along.

The first one is an item with lemire which I actually talked to you about at the last pleagh , you'll note we made some modifications to the request for authorization from the last one we looked at, notably I was mistaken you noting them to be minority on business, have should be just a woman on business but doing exactly the same work that we talked to you about, they're the work that, they do -- they do sort of a lot of website checks, they look at ventex the federal system for award management, the New York state Department of Labor workers lists and various other data sources they provide reports to my office they do follow up work and ultimately make the responsibility of determinations ourselves.

But given the volume of prekindergarten contractors that we need to do background checks on I just don't have the bandwidth to do them in the time it would take to get all of them done , so we're using leMyer now in addition to that much exper associates to supplement us to get all these background checks done.

So that's the leMyer item.

So the next three items are all for pre -- actual prekindergarten services, they just reflect different groups of proposals based on the procurement methods and the vendors that are involved in them. So the first one -- actually, you know what I should start with number four -- I'm sorry, yeah, number three just to sort of keep things simple.

So you'll remember we did an RFP back in December that resulted in award of both half day and full day programs.

And these are just additional vendors that were not ready to get panel approval when we went to you for approval based on the RFP last time around, so these are just additional vendors as a result of that RFP. Even having done that RFP, you know, was out in the street in December we wanted to get really as many full-day prekindergarten programs as we could, particularly in areas of need, and we wanted to give another chance for vendors that did not originally propose a response to the RFP a chance to propose.

So we did a new solicitation, that was -- that the department advertised on the department of early childhood website and we send notices to prekindergarten providers inviting them to propose a second time.

And those contracts were still vetted using the same rubrics that we did to evaluate the vendors before, but in the interest of time we had

to convince the procurement process, and even actually use two reviewers rather than three, although that didn't reduce standards at all because both reviewers had to score the vendor over 80 , whereas when we did the RFP we had three reviewers and two of the three reviewers had to score the vendor over 80.

So now you required unanimity of two rather than the majority of three.

So if anything, it made it harder for the vendors to meet standard with the negotiated service So but standards were the same, the rubrics for scoring the vendors were the same, and they're being asked for a panel approval as negotiated service, but again, we used really the same standards and rubrics for vealding the vendors as we did before.

And that brings us to all of the additional vendors that you see on the list for item number two.

The last one, as you probably know from reading newspapers and others, we also opened up the prekindergarten program to applications from charter schools.

And the fourth item is -- are a group of charter schools that were reviewed and approved also to provide prekindergarten services. So that's the list of the charter schools as well So that's what we're bringing to the panel this month, is that there will be a regular meeting on June 30th, when I'll have a whole slew of other types of contracts for you from milk and bread and facilities contracts to the rest of it, this time around it's all about preK.

Any questions?

>> Geographically what's the mix in terms of the programs that we're going to be funding?

>> You know, Robert, we have that actually labeled, if you look at the request for authorization , they do include the burrows that they're in fwur roughs that they're in in the RA you can see that, I'm going to note in the past I've had those geographic distributions you're asking me -- I will certainly have that with me tomorrow night when we bring this full panel, if that's okay.

I'm sorry I don't have that, and I'll tell you the numbers of each of the programs that we're having, that were approved.

>> Okay.

>> My apologies.

Are there any other questions?

>> This is pretty straightforward.

>> Okay.

Okay, so great.

So I guess I would propose that we'll vote on the four -- on the three items that are preK maybe last night and the leMyer item as a separate item because it's sort of a different thing -DELETE-

>> Sure.

>> I will say I should mention to you, I found it somewhat fascinating is there seems to be some press coverage on the leMyer thing, I think it might be more focused on the fact that we're doing background checks I'm I don't know why everybody is surprised yes we clul do background checks and we do on most of the contracts I have , but we're actually lowering the bar even for kindergarten the smairl ones.

>> I read an article it wasn't particularly judgmental it was actually straightforward reporting on capital in work about leMyer today. It didn't seem particularly -- you know, opposed or for it.

>> Right.

I read the same article and I don't think there is negative press to be had on it, I'm only surprised by the interest in it because to me it's sort of a no-brainer that we would be doing something like this, and you know like I said and you can read I think they're a very solid firm and you know we're doing final QC on their work anyway.

>> You're breaking up so I'm hearing like every third word, but.

>> I hope you're getting the good ones.

>> I think it's okay I think I'm losing you.

>> Okay, I'm sorry.

>> That's okay.

>> Okay, so anyway, so we'll do the -- we'll do the three preKs as an item and the leMyer as a separate item and we're good to go for tomorrow night.  
Thank you, Laura.

>> Thank you.

>> Okay, bye now.

>> Nice meeting you.