BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA OF IN-PERSON SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026 - 6:00 PM
CITY HALL ROOM 305
45 LYON TERRACE
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

1. **Public Speaking**
2. ***Approval of the Proposed Settlement Agreement Involving a Minor. Portions of this matter may occur in Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 1-200 (6) upon a 2/3 majority vote of the Board members present and voting**
3. **Approval of the Disability Resource Network Contract.**
4. **Approval of the Qualified Purchase/Single Source for Sprinkler System Maintenance.**
5. ***Discussion of, and Possible Action Concerning, Dr. Avery's Employment, Performance, and Evaluation as Interim Superintendent, Including Possible Increase of the Annualized Salary For Dr. Avery as Interim Superintendent and Amendment of the Employment Agreement Between Dr. Avery and the Board to Reflect Such Salary Adjustment. Portions of this Matter May Occur in Executive Session Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 1-200 (6) Upon a 2/3 Majority Vote of the Board Members Present and Voting.**
6. **Adjourn**

230 Caroline Street
Derby, CT 06418
P: (203) 732-0030
F: (203) 516-5489

DRN

340 Capitol Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606
P: (203) 873-0743
F: (203) 873-0745

DISABILITY RESOURCE NETWORK, INC.

Proposal for Contracts
2026–2027 School Year

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

Disability Resource Network, Inc. (DRN) respectfully submits the enclosed individual Contracts for Services for students enrolled during the 2026–2027 school year who were placed into DRN programming through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process during their respective end-of-year PPT meetings.

DRN currently anticipates providing services to 24 continuing students during the 2026–2027 school year. The anticipated total cost of services for these 24 enrolled students is $3,510,000 for the 2026–2027 school year. These students were recommended to continue their placement at DRN through their respective end-of-year Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings and are expected to remain enrolled for the upcoming school year.

These contracts reflect the individualized educational and related services required to meet each student's needs as determined by their IEP and/or Section 504 Plan. We are pleased to report that all pricing has remained unchanged from the previous contract term, allowing the district to continue receiving the same high-quality specialized services without any increase in tuition or service rates.

Breakdown of Anticipated Student Service Models

The anticipated total cost of $3,510,000 for the 2026–2027 school year reflects the individualized services and supports required for the 24 students currently expected to continue receiving services at DRN. The breakdown of student service models is as follows:

Tuition

Each student enrolled in DRN's alternative education program and/or the certified transition center is assessed the same annual base tuition rate of $75,000. This tuition is based on a 180-day school year for the 2026–2027 academic year, unless otherwise specified by contract or an individual student's placement agreement.

The tuition includes comprehensive educational programming, therapeutic supports, behavioral interventions, and specialized services provided within our highly structured learning environment.

Individualized Paraprofessional Support

Some students require dedicated paraprofessional services to safely and successfully access their educational program. These supports are provided in accordance with each student's IEP and/or Section 504 Plan.

The rates for individualized paraprofessional support are as follows:

- One-to-One Dedicated Paraprofessional Support: $45,000 annually
  - For students requiring a dedicated staff member to provide behavioral intervention, ensure the safety of the student and others, facilitate participation in programming, or provide other individualized supports identified through the student's educational plan.
- Two-to-One Dedicated Paraprofessional Support: $90,000 annually
  - For students whose needs require two dedicated paraprofessionals assigned exclusively to one student due to the intensity of behavioral, medical, or safety-related needs.

All DRN paraprofessionals maintain the training and certifications necessary to support students with complex educational and behavioral needs. Each paraprofessional is annually certified by PMT Associates, Inc. in Psychological and Physical Management Techniques and completes biannual certification in CPR, First Aid, and AED, as well as Mandated Reporter Training. This ongoing professional development ensures staff remain current in best practices for behavioral intervention, student safety, emergency response, and child protection.

Transportation Services

DRN provides private transportation utilizing our fleet of vehicles equipped to safely transport students with complex educational and behavioral needs. Each vehicle is equipped with sophisticated dual-view dash camera systems and AI-assisted monitoring technology to enhance vehicle, driver, and student safety.

In addition to providing safe transportation, DRN's flexible transportation model promotes improved student attendance. Our transportation team can accommodate adjusted pickup times when appropriate and will transport students who are tardy to ensure they are able to attend school and maximize instructional time.

Transportation rates are as follows:

- In-District Transportation: $150 per day
- Transportation with an Additional Vehicle Paraprofessional: $250 per day
  - For students whose IEP or behavioral needs require an additional paraprofessional to accompany the student during transportation to ensure the safety of the student, driver, and others.
- Out-of-District Transportation (DCF Nexus Placements):
  - Students residing outside the district under DCF nexus provisions are transported at an increased daily rate based upon the pickup location. The current daily transportation rate for these students is $200 per day.

New Student Referrals

Students newly referred and subsequently placed at DRN during the 2026–2027 school year will be subject to the same annual tuition, paraprofessional support, and transportation rates outlined in this proposal.

Should an individual student's educational, behavioral, medical, or safety needs require specialized services beyond those identified in the standard contract, DRN will work collaboratively with the referring school district to determine the level of support required. Any additional services and associated costs will be discussed with the district and mutually agreed upon prior to implementation.

Students who begin placement after the start of the school year will have their annual tuition prorated based on their official enrollment date. Daily transportation charges, including any applicable transportation paraprofessional support, will commence on the student's first day of transportation services.

To ensure appropriate authorization and funding, no student will begin services at DRN until a fully executed contract, signed by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's authorized designee, has been received by DRN. This requirement ensures that all placement terms, services, and financial obligations have been formally approved before the student's enrollment.

End of Services

A student's placement and services at DRN will remain in effect until one of the following occurs:

- A formal Planning and Placement Team (PPT) Exit Meeting determines that the student's placement at DRN is no longer appropriate and authorizes a transition to another educational setting; or
- DRN receives official notification from the referring school district that the student has moved out of the district or is otherwise no longer the district's responsibility for educational services.

Unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by both parties, tuition will be billed through the last month in which the student is enrolled and attending DRN. Transportation services will be billed through the student's final day of transportation services only.

DRN requests that the referring district provide timely written notification of any anticipated change in placement or residency to facilitate appropriate discharge planning, ensure continuity of services for the student, and allow for accurate billing and contract reconciliation.

Conclusion

DRN appreciates the Board of Education's continued trust and partnership and respectfully request approval of the enclosed individual student service contracts for the 2026–2027 school year.

DRN values its longstanding partnership with Bridgeport Public Schools and looks forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in supporting students with complex educational and behavioral needs. We remain committed to ensuring that every student receives the individualized services, specialized supports, and educational opportunities necessary to achieve meaningful academic, social, and personal success.

Thank you for your continued confidence in DRN. We appreciate the opportunity to serve the students and families of Bridgeport and look forward to another successful school year working together.

Summary of Tuition and Service Rates

The following rates apply for the 2026–2027 school year:

Service	Rate
Annual Base Tuition (180-Day School Year)	$75,000per student
One-to-One Dedicated Paraprofessional Support.	$45,000 annually
Two-to-One Dedicated Paraprofessional Support	$90,000 annually
In-District Transportation	$150 per day
In-District Transportation with Additional Vehicle Paraprofessional	$250 per day
Out-of-District Transportation (Current DCF Nexus Rate*)	$200 per day

*Out-of-district transportation rates are determined by the student's residence and may vary based on the pickup location. The current rate for students receiving out-of-district transportation is $200 per day based upon their pickup location.

General Contract Terms

- Annual tuition is based on a 180-day school year, unless otherwise specified in an individual contract.
- Students enrolled after the start of the school year will have tuition prorated from their official enrollment date.
- Transportation charges begin on the student's first day of transportation services.
- Additional specialized services required to meet an individual student's educational, behavioral, medical, or safety needs may result in additional costs. These services and associated fees will be reviewed and approved with the referring school district prior to implementation.
- No student may begin services until DRN has received a fully executed contract signed by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's authorized designee.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFIED PURCHASE (waiver of competitive process)

*****THIS SECTION FOR PURCHASING AND CAO ONLY*****

FILE NUMBER (assigned by Purchasing only): ____________________

RECOMMENDED: ☐ DENIED ☐ ____________________ (SIGNED/DATED PURCHASING AGENT)
(a denial requires a written explanation)

APPROVED: ☐ DENIED: ☐ ____________________ SIGNED/DATED CAO

COMPLETE EACH SECTION BELOW & THE JUSTIFICATION MEMO ATTACHED. THEN SUBMIT FOR APPROVAL *BEFORE* CREATING A REQUISITION.

REMINDER: Purchases made from state or cooperative bids do not require this form.

PURCHASE INFORMATION

PROPOSED VENDOR & ITEM(S) TO PURCHASE: BRAKEFIRE -FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSPECTIONS/MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (attach quote or applicable backup) **$** 45,000

PRIOR QP NUMBER: (N/A if not applicable. Any existing agreement/contract must also be provided) BMS049257

REASON FOR WAIVER REQUEST

☐ **SOLE SOURCE** (the only vendor that exists. Sole Source letter required)
☑ **SINGLE/SPECIAL SOURCE** (only one unique vendor, among many)
☐ **TIME CRITICAL** (explain why this could not have been reasonably anticipated in the ADDITIONAL INFORMATION section of memo)
☐ **REQUIRED** to come immediately into compliance with federal, state or local laws or codes
☐ **NECESSARY** to avoid complete loss of funds made available by non-city public or private funding sources

INTEGRITY AFFIDAVIT

EVERY CONTRACTING OFFICER THAT IS REQUESTING A QUALIFIED PURCHASE PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S PURCHASING ORDINANCE (**Section 3.08.070, as amended**), MUST FULLY AND ACCURATELY COMPLETE AND ATTEST TO THIS SECTION.

Name of Contracting Officer: JORGE GARCIA

Contracting Officer's email address: JGARCIA3@BRIDGEPORTEDU.NET

Department: BBOE FACILITIES **Title:** CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER **Phone Number: x**275-2730

The undersigned hereby attests that the following statements are true, correct, and complete, to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, and that the City of Bridgeport is entitled to rely thereon:

		Yes	No
a)	I have a personal or business relationship with the vendor or contractor being selected. *(If yes, attach detailed explanation)* *(If yes, Purchasing will contact the Office of City Attorney for a conflict analysis)*	☐	☑
b)	I have made all reasonable attempts to ensure that this procurement is in the best interest of the City	☑	☐

____________________ (Signature -Contracting Officer/Manager) Dated: ____________

____________________ (Signature -Department Head or BOE Authorized Personnel) Dated: ____________

BE ADVISED: It is your responsibility to ensure that the City is protected with regard to bonding, insurance, and state and federal wage requirements as the established purchasing ordinance is being waived in this instance.

PLEASE NOTE:

QUALIFIED PURCHASES OVER $25,000 REQUIRE A CONTRACT, PER SECTION K OF 3.08.070 PLEASE CHECK WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, *AFTER* QP APPROVAL, BUT *PRIOR* TO EMCUMBERING FUNDS.

IF THERE IS A PROPOSED VENDOR CONTRACT, SUBMIT AN UNSIGNED COPY AS PART OF YOUR QUALIFIED PURCHASE REQUEST.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFIED PURCHASE

JUSTIFICATION MEMO

TO: Purchasing Agent

SIGNED (Contracting Officer):

DATE:

- WHAT IS BEING PURCHASED AND WHY IS A QUALIFIED PURCHASE NECESSARY? (provide supporting documents):

FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSPECTIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS

- IF PURCHASE IS ESTIMATED TO BE **LESS** THAN $25,000.00, EXPLAIN WHY THE INFORMAL QUOTE PROCESS IS NOT BEING UTILIZED

- IF PURCHASE IS ESTIMATED TO BE **MORE** THAN $25,000.00, WHY CAN'T THIS GO OUT TO BID? (without valid justification, you may be required to go out to bid)

Brakefire has been servicing the fire sprinkler systems for years and are familiar with the systems. Se attached history. Brakefire is the vendor who inspects and tests the sprinklers. They are located in Stratford and can be available in emergency situations. Emergency response time is critical. A new vendor would require additional costs to inspect and familiarize itself with the systems. They are once again holding their prices. see attached letter.

- WHAT BUDGET IS APPROVED FOR THESE REQUESTED GOODS OR SERVICES? Choose corresponding budget option listed below:
  Operating ☑ **Capital** ☐ **Grant** ☐
  (provide any additional necessary information below):

- **NOTE**: IF GRANT FUNDED, COPIES OF THE PAGES OF THE GRANT WHICH CONTAIN THE TERMS AND PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRANT MUST BE PROVIDED.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/EXPLANATION (if any)

NOTE: FAILURE TO SUBMIT SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION WILL RESULT IN A REJECTION OF THE REQUEST

PURCHASE ORDER HISTORY - BRAKE FIRE PROTECTION INC				
Year	**PO#**	**PO Date**	**Order Amount**	**General Comments**
2010	5841	10/16/2009	710.30	FIRE PREVENTION
2010	5840	10/16/2009	1,019.10	FIRE PREVENTION
2010	2224	08/31/2009	2,659.12	EMERGENCY QUOTE FIRE LINE REPL
2010	2592	09/04/2009	5,900.00	EMERGENCY FIRE SPRINLER WORK
2010	1126	08/05/2009	20,640.00	FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT AND
2011	11001727	08/10/2010	19,250.86	EQPMT MAINT & REPAIR SERVICES
2012	12003786	09/26/2011	204.00	MAVERICK PURCHASE
2012	12006261	11/15/2011	755.32	EQPMT MAINT & REPAIR SERVICES
2012	12003007	09/09/2011	1,017.00	MAVERICK PURCHASE
2012	12003381	09/16/2011	2,043.40	MAVERICK PURCHASE
2012	12001893	08/15/2011	12,050.80	STANDING ORDER
2013	13001345	08/02/2012	200.00	EQPMT MAINT & REPAIR SERVICES
2013	13002519	08/29/2012	23,000.00	BMQ110138 FIRE SUPPRESSION
2014	14000950	07/26/2013	20,943.13	BMQ277147 FIRE PROTECTION INSP
2015	15000181	07/09/2014	498.51	INVOICE 27592 JFK EMERGENCY LE
2015	15000853	07/21/2014	697.18	INVOICE 27603 AQUA EMERGENCY
2015	15000854	07/21/2014	745.59	JOHNSON SCH EMERGENCY WATER LE
2015	15001020	07/24/2014	7,000.00	STANDING ORDER SPRINKLER REPAI
2015	15002898	08/29/2014	27,612.50	BMQ422158 ANNUAL FIRE SPRINKLE
2016	16011333	04/07/2016	834.38	MARIN GRANT - FIRE SPRINKLER
2016	16002218	08/14/2015	25,056.69	BMQ546168 FIRE SPRINKLER INSPE
2017	17001185	08/03/2016	24,497.26	BMQ728177 FIRE SPRINKLER INSPE
2018	18000752	07/21/2017	24,358.00	BMQ011187 FIRE SPRINKLERS
2019	19000924	07/25/2018	37,425.00	BMQ103197 FIRE SPRINKLER INSPE
2020	20002128	08/16/2019	1,206.45	EMERGENCY FIRE SPRINKLER REPAI
2020	20000869	07/22/2019	1,433.55	EMERGENCY FIRE SPRINKLER LEAK
2020	20006308	11/15/2019	23,817.48	MNQ009208 - FIRE SPRINKLER SYS
2021	21001595	08/12/2020	25,352.00	BMS061218 INSPECTION & TESTING
2022	22003416	09/09/2021	10,000.00	BES092228 SPRINKLER MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
2022	22000674	07/20/2021	20,000.00	BMS010227 SPRINKLER TESTING & INSPECTION
2023	23001032	08/01/2022	934.27	INVOICE # 43995
2023	23001519	08/11/2022	44,256.59	BMS016237 SPRINKLER MAINTENANCEE & REPAIR
2024	24001331	08/02/2023	44,110.49	BMS049247 SPRINKLER MAINTENENACE & REPAIR
2025	25000046	07/02/2024	40,151.15	BMS004257 FY25 MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
2026	26000539	07/17/2025	72,338.85	BMS023267-2 MAINTENANCE

Service Agreement

This Services Agreement is between the City of Bridgeport Board of Education, Office of Facilities Planning & Operation, 1085 Connecticut Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06607-1207, and Brake Fire Protection, Inc., 2450 Reservoir Ave., Trumbull, CT 06611 . Effective on full execution and continuing through completion of the scope described below, subject to the not-to-exceed amount.

- **Scope of Services**
  - Vendor will perform fire sprinkler system inspections, maintenance, and repairs at various Bridgeport public schools, including inspection and testing activities, consistent with past work history for the school district .
  - Work includes conducting required inspections and maintenance, and performing repairs as needed to school fire protection systems, including standpipes and fire pumps .
  - Examples of tasks include: five-year flow testing on standpipe systems per NFPA 25 (2020 edition); tightening/servicing components to address active leaks (e.g., pressure reducing valve leak remediation); installing or replacing components such as a shaft coupling guard and casing relief valve on a fire pump when required .
  - Vendor acknowledges familiarity with the district's fire protection systems and ability to respond to emergencies, which is important for timely service.

- **Compensation; Not-to-Exceed**. Total compensation shall not exceed forty-five thousand dollars ($45,000) in aggregate for all services under this Agreement.

- **Independent Contractor; No Assignment**
  - Vendor acts as an independent contractor and is solely responsible for its employees, methods, and means; any assignment or subcontracting requires City approval consistent with City procurement controls noted for qualified purchases.

- **Insurance, Bonding, and Wage Requirements**. Vendor shall comply with applicable bonding, insurance, and state and federal wage requirements, as the purchasing ordinance is being waived for this qualified purchase .

- **Emergency Response**. Vendor acknowledges the need for timely emergency response for leaks and similar issues in school facilities and will prioritize such requests .

- **Records; Acceptance**
  - Vendor shall document services performed for each location and provide reports or service tickets identifying the work performed (e.g., leak remediation, component replacement, or inspection/testing completed) .
  - Completed services are subject to City review and acceptance for payment.

- **Termination**. City may terminate for convenience upon written notice, compensating Vendor only for services satisfactorily performed up to termination, within the not-to-exceed amount.

- **Entire Agreement; Order of Precedence**. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement for the qualified purchase; any vendor standard invoice terms that conflict with this Agreement (e.g., late interest) are superseded by this Agreement's terms.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on the day and year last written below.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT	**Brake Fire Protection, Inc**
By:________________________	By: James H Brake
Joseph P. Ganim	Print Name: James H. Brake
Mayor	Print Title: President
Date: ______________________	Date: 7-20-2026

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

By:____________________________

James T. Maye

Associate City Attorney