

Executive Summary
Fayette County Public Schools Board Meeting
Agenda Item

MEETING: Planning

DATE: 11/14/2022

TOPIC: Andrews Counseling and Consulting, PLLC with Edythe J Hayes Middle School

PREPARED BY: Bill Bradford

Recommended Action on: 11/28/2022

Action Item for Vote (REGULAR MEETING)

Superintendent Prior Approval: Yes

Recommendation/Motion: A motion is in order to approve the Andrews Counseling and Consulting, PLLC contract to provide counseling for students and families.

Background/Rationale: The Andrews Counseling and Consulting, PLLC will provide mental health and grief counseling to students and families. This contractual agreement is an extension of services provided to Edythe J. Hayes Middle School by a successful minority owned business. These mental health support services supplement the district's mental health support services as the school aims to deliver targeted support and intervention beyond the district's generous levels of resources. Specifically, as the school conducted a comprehensive needs assessment, they determined that many of their minority parents reported difficulty in arranging for outside counseling for their students. Furthermore, these same parents shared that they experienced significant challenges in engaging with African American counselors for their children. As a minority owned business, Edythe J. Hayes Middle School aligned resources with opportunity gaps within the school so that they could open up more avenues for mental health services and reduce the stigma associated with it. Services provided through this partnership are carefully designed to foster knowledge, skills, and attitudes across five areas of social and emotional competence. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities. Small group and one-on-one mentoring are further components of the contractual agreement. Quality implementation of well-

designed, evidence-based, classroom programs and practices is a foundational element of effective SEL, and we believe this contractual service will support our comprehensive school improvement goals in this area, leading to higher levels of academic success.

Strategic Priority:

- Student Achievement Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging
- Highly Effective & Culturally Responsive Workforce
- Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach Organizational Health & Efficiency

Data Considerations: In response to a 50% increase in the total number of threat assessments and mental health reports from the previous year, this contract with Andrews Counseling and Consulting, PLLC will supply personnel supports to establish equitable learning environments and coordinate practices across four key settings that support students' and families' social, emotional, and academic development. As a result of this partnership, counseling services for students and families will better equip our school to promote competence in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. As Edythe J. Hayes Middle School has analyzed their mental health data, they found that African American students are three (3) times more likely to receive an office referral than their same age, comparability peer groups. This is particularly true for disruptive behaviors. Andrews Counseling and Consulting, PLLC offers social skills and coping skills small groups to help address this beyond our normal protocols. After the most recent district-wide administration of the DESSA SEL Screener, data for students at this school show the highest needs for support as "goal directed behavior" (83% need instruction) and "personal responsibility" (74% need instruction). "Self management" also reported as 62% of students needing instruction. This contract for counseling services provides for individual and small group supports to work with most challenging behaviors. Additionally, these services provide for working with the student's entire family by offering joint sessions with parents and students together. This is a systemic approach that emphasizes the importance of establishing equitable learning environments and coordinating practices across key settings of our classrooms, our school, our families, and our community to enhance all students' social, emotional, and academic learning.

Policy: N/A

Fiscal Impact: \$30,000.00 (school-based ESSER allocation)

Attachments(s): Contract attached