



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Board is being asked to approve an amendment to the contract with the Durham Public Schools Foundation and Budget Amendment Ordinance No. 21BCC000061 adding \$124,000 to and extending the operations of the three Hope Learning Centers for the first two weeks of 2nd semester.

Background/Justification

In November 2020, the DPS Foundation and Hope Learning Center providers requested a December audience with the County Commissioners to discuss the ongoing 2nd semester need for remote learning centers and the County support the providers would need to continue providing this service for over 300 of Durham's most vulnerable students. *At their Dec. 14th meeting, the BOCC approved \$124,000 in additional funding to cover the first two weeks of 2nd semester*, which would carry the contract through the last 2 weeks of January. This would provide time for additional January discussions of this need, of additional funding sources, and other information that has some bearing on if and how this service will be provided for the remainder of the second semester. There is a separate BOCC discussion of that broader question on the agenda at this same meeting. As of the writing of this memo, DPS has also committed to operating their own three remote learning centers through the end of January as well.

Policy Impact

There are some policy impacts for supporting the remote learning centers and there also would be impacts if the County did *not* support them, but the County has a long history of working with local educational non-profits that support the work of the school system.

Procurement Background

This contract amendment did not go through a bidding process because it was originally the DPS Foundation and providers who approached the County at the start of the school year with a proposal to help meet the needs of some of Durham's most vulnerable students.

Fiscal Impact

The County contributed \$405,000 towards the provision of remote learning centers during the first semester and the City provided \$338,000. Provision of these services during the second semester will be more expensive, with an estimated total cost of \$1.14 million, primarily because the centers will be starting at full enrollment on the first day of the semester.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve the contract amendment and Budget Amendment Ordinance No. 21BCC000061 adding \$124,000 to the County's contract with the Durham Public Schools Foundation to extend the Hope Learning Centers at Student U, the YMCA, and Kate's Korner through the end of January 2021.