

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

21-279



135 Berkshire Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

September 21, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT AAWARD: Educational Support

RECOMMENDATION:

That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Period of Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Youth Guidance 1 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 900 Chicago, IL 60602	9/1/21 – 6/30/22	\$272,888.00

DESCRIPTION: This contract is for the Becoming A Man (BAM) and Working on Womanhood (WOW) Programs at CRLS. See attached supplemental information for additional details.

SUPPORTING DATA, RULES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Chapter III, Section 12..." motions calling for the appropriation or expenditure of money I require the affirmative vote of four members."

BUDGET REFERENCE:

Fund		Account		Dept.	
15000	General Fund	55107	Instructional Services	830248	CRLS/Cambridge Partners

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria L. Greer, PhD

Interim Superintendent of Schools

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Youth Guidance Contract

Becoming a Man (BAM): Annual Cost: \$136,444

BAM delivers an innovative blend of clinical theory, men's rite of passage work, and a dynamic approach to youth engagement and guiding that equips youth with the tools they need to develop into healthy, responsible young men and thrive. A BAM counselor will work with a cohort of 55 male students of color at the high school. Through weekly group sessions called BAM Circles, and individual support during the school day, the BAM Counselor will guide young men to learn, internalize, and practice social-emotional skills that align with the program's six core values of integrity, accountability, self-determination, positive anger expressions, respect for womanhood, and visionary goal setting. The program will connect youth to mentors, and provide programming centered on social-emotional development, and academic and career skills in a culturally proficient way.

Woman on Womanhood (WOW): 136,444

Beginning in school year 2021-22, CRLS will partner with Youth Guidance to implement WOW at CRLS to serve girls and young women—alongside the BAM program. In school year 2021-22, WOW will provide direct services to between 50 to 60 young women with the below-described interventions, in turn, supporting participants' mental, social, and academic wellbeing.

WOW is delivered by full-time WOW Counselors that work within the school to deliver weekly group counseling sessions (called Circles), provide individual support services, and build a supportive school climate that promotes the holistic development and success of students. WOW students complete WOW curriculum over 2 academic years. Program participants are identified in coordination with school administrators, teachers, staff, and behavioral health teams. Students may also be referred by their parents or may self-refer into the programs. While most students are identified and referred by school staff, participation in the program is voluntary.

WOW Circles are weekly, curriculum-based group counseling sessions that occur during the school day. Each Circle and curriculum activity guides students as they learn, practice, and internalize social-emotional skills and knowledge that will help them overcome obstacles, develop healthy relationships, and succeed in school and in life. Curriculum activities are rooted in principles of cognitive behavioral therapy and align with a set of **core program values**: Self-Awareness, Emotional Intelligence, Healthy Relationships, Visionary Goal Setting, and Leadership. Field trips, cultural enrichment activities, and special events expose participants to new opportunities and enable them to practice their skills in a safe, supportive environment. Special events mark milestones in the program, field trips include college tours, and cultural enrichment activities.