

NHPS & AF Proposed Partnership – Issue Summary

February 20, 2015.

	Issue	Key Facts	Potential Partnership Terms
<i>Equity</i>	<i>AF Students Returning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~2% of AF students return in the middle of the year, compared to ~1% for other charters, ~2% for Magnets, and 3% for Neighborhood Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint panel would review all mid-year transfer requests from AF; panel empowered to discourage individual transfer except in exceptional circumstances, assess the school practices that led to families transfer request, and make public recommendations about patterns in requests for transfers
	<i>AF Student Population</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF Schools highly subscribed, with more applicants than any other Kindergarten program in the City; Choice process requires self-selection by families SPED population lags district, at ~7% vs ~11% ELL population lags, ~7% vs 13%, but AF has high population of ELL in early grades; drops after K and 1 once ELLs become English proficient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHPS affiliated Pre-K students who *do not* file an application would be included in enrollment pool for all AF schools, with ability to opt out of choice (i.e. reducing self-selection)
<i>Practices (Collaboration)</i>	<i>AF Behavior and Discipline Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High suspension rates at AF led to both regulatory scrutiny and changes in practice Stories from families and students highlight strict discipline and behavior systems Since 2012-13, AF has changed discipline practices across all schools, and suspensions dropped from 18% to 10% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF to participate in NHPS Restorative Practices program, designed to support schools in reducing the number and impact of disciplinary incidents by increasing adult-student relationships and engagement AF to continue to provide public data on suspensions
	<i>Broader Practice Exchange</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHPS-AF residency program trains NHPS leaders through embedded residency in AF and in NHPS schools; AF leaders participate in seminars and school visits at NHPS but have embedded residency only in AF schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing joint practice exchange 3 times a year, with educators from charter and district exploring areas of strength within district schools
	<i>Charter Public Accountability and Transparency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public accountability through state and separate state reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on student performance, equity and students served, and organizational capacity (funding and staff satisfaction) provided to *include* in public reporting of the same data for NHPS Schools
	<i>Rhetoric and Public Attack</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF part of the coalition that rallied on the green and has used language of students “trapped” in “failing schools” Coalition has changed language without highlighting change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU would bar explicit negative rhetoric

<i>Innovate: Elm City Imagine</i>	District Participation in Elm City Imagine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the conceptual design stage, explicitly distinct from any discussion of a New Haven location, two NHPS administrators were invited to participate in design discussions to help assess and learn from design process; that participation was inconsistent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlos Torre designated for board seat of Elm City charter school, per state law • Advisory board for Elm City Imagine can include substantial NHPS participation (details in discussion) • NHPS teachers choosing to go to Elm City Imagine can maintain seniority for return to District • NHPS teacher leader can embed in school, to participate in leadership team and share practice (in discussion)
<i>Finances</i>	Financial Impact of New School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall operating funding for students in New Haven is \$13.9k/student overall and \$12.8k/student in K-8 Schools, with an additional \$1,745 in capital interest to pay for buildings; Charter Schools receive \$13,262 in charter allocations and guaranteed in kind, and no public support for facilities / capital interest • Core District funding (City Funding, ECS, & Alliance) are not currently tied to enrollment, so increases or reductions in NH students does not substantially change funding • Hartford BOEs have MOUs with that provide AF ~\$1,500-\$2,000/pupil of in-kind service and \$500 of cash; Hartford has confirmed that the district sees those arrangements as both educationally and financially advantageous. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHPS and City of New Haven would provide, in addition to guaranteed in-kind, a capped amount of \$700/pupil in contractual and in-kind services for 90 students served in each grade of the new charter; \$202,000 in the first year and \$459,000 at full size • State charter funding would increase in New Haven by an additional \$11,000 per student, or ~\$6M at full size. • The district contribution is significantly less than the cost of educating the 90 student who would enroll in each charter grade, resulting in an increased overall per pupil in the district of ~\$390/student • Reduction of 90 students per grade targeted to reduce class-size in needy schools around the city; seat projection is currently underway, but targeting maximum Kindergarten class-size of 20 or less (down from 24-26) at least for Lincoln Basset, Wexler Grant, Clemente, Hill Central, Clinton and Troup • District would be released from financial contribution to new school with any substantial change to ECS or city funding, resulting in negative impact due to the charter school enrollment
	Financial Impact Across AF Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fulfill its legal obligation to provide Special Education services, NHPS provides a fixed contract to AF for \$360,000; amount is not student based, and lags the support to SPED students in the district • City provides coverage for nursing but not full time nurses in many schools, and does not support nursing services in AF schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOU would clarify SPED support to be clear and equitable across schools, rooted in current NHPS ratio of teachers to SPED students • NHPS/City would provide nursing services at the same level as NHPS schools, part-time with the hope of bringing all schools to full-time nursing support