

Grant \$ flowed to Wellcore/Just Inspire from MV Schools since November 2015: **\$8,522,370**

I reviewed the "School Improvement" section of MV School Board meeting Agendas from 2015 to date. I pulled spending recommendations that involved Wellcore/Just Inspire. Anyone who is interested can do the same. Go to <https://www.boarddocs.com/ny/mvcsd/Board.nsf> . Click "Enter Public Site", and then "Meetings". From there you can search out the meeting date of interest, and click on "View the Agenda". Once that is done, the list of Agenda areas and Item #s will be visible. Click on an Item # to get the details.

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A note about items that say "no fiscal impact" or "no cost to the school district". This is misleading and may account, at least in part, for why the school board didn't question this spending. To say "no cost to the school district" just means that the cost of grant spending is neutral in terms of the current budget and won't increase local school taxes. However, we all pay state and federal taxes and that is where NYS School Improvement Grants (SIGs), for example, come from. Furthermore, regardless of where the money comes from, we have an obligation to spend it wisely. It does a disservice to our students and potentially harms our reputation as a community when we don't use financial resources wisely. It is a mistake to think of this as "free money" to spend as we wish, without regard to reasonableness, necessity, fairness, ethics, and prudence.

#### A truncated list of my questions

1. Is it reasonable and necessary to strike these contracts? School Improvement Grants (SIGs) are already earmarked for schools that meet NYS criteria, and the application process is not difficult. So why pay Wellcore/Just Inspire to apply for SIGs? Why didn't we apply for the grants ourselves? By paying Wellcore/Just Inspire to do it, aren't we needlessly diverting a percentage of the money from each school improvement grant to this company? Is that reasonable and necessary?
2. Is Just Inspire using these public funds prudently? For example, we paid Just Inspire \$75,000 to conduct a "Saturday Academy". The cost breaks down to \$1,041.66 per 45-class (see 1.4.2022, Item 7.1). It doesn't matter if the grants come from local, state, or federal taxes, we have an obligation to ensure that costs incurred are reasonable and necessary. Is \$1,041.66 a reasonable cost for a 45-min yoga class?
3. What "school improvement" outcomes did Wellcore/Just Inspire achieve for us in exchange for over \$8.5 million? Who is measuring the impact and how?
4. Who is Wellcore/Just Inspire? How did they end up signing agreements with MV Schools in the first place? What expertise do they have in areas germane to the needs of our students, staff, and families?
5. Who were the Wellcore/Just Inspire employees or subcontracts providing these services? They are contracted to provide a wide range of services to parents, students, and staff. What skills and credentials do they possess? If the Wellcore/Just Inspire employees/subcontractors are MV schools employees getting supplemental pay to perform school improvement tasks, why are we flowing the money to Just Inspire to pay our school employees? If MV school district employees were/are paid by Wellcore/Just Inspire doesn't that create potential labor law concerns?

6. I can find no evidence of Requests for Proposal (RFPs) for any of the grant writing or management services we paid Wellcore/Just Inspire to do, except for the most recent year (see Item 7.4 on 8/24/2021). Were there RFPs for these lucrative contracts for prior years? And for the current RFP awarded to Just Inspire, where was the bid advertised, how many bidders were there, and who was on the review committee that selected Just Inspire?

All of spending recommendations listed below came from Dr. Waveline Bennett-Conroy, except for the item on 12/19/17 (recommended by R. Gonzalez and submitted by Dr. Bennett-Conroy), and the item on 9/21/22 (recommended by Marlon Stephenson)

Board Meeting Date	Agenda Item #	Recommendation	Cost
11.23.2015	7.4	Wellcore-supervise School Improvement Grant 6 (SIG 6)	\$250,680
4.5.2016	7.6	Wellcore- OASAS Grant Admin & Eval services	\$39,929
5.3.2016	7.6	Wellcore- provide 2 Ed Consultants to assist in Leadership and Mentoring	\$150,000
7.6.2016	5.3	Wellcore- monitor SIG 6 grant	\$250,000
7.20.2016	7.4	Wellcore- 2 Ed Consultant	\$150,000
9.20.2016	8.2	Just Inspire-Data Management Pennington & Graham	\$100,000
9.20.2016	8.3	Just Inspire-Parent U Workshops Graham & Williams	\$28,500
10.5.2016	7.4	Just Inspire- Data Management Williams & Hamilton	\$100,000
10.18.2016	8.7	Just Inspire- Data Management Davis	\$75,000
12.6.2016	8.5	Just Inspire-Grant Management and Eval Perkins Grant	\$16,500
12.6.2016	8.6	Just Inspire- Grant Manage McKinney Vento	\$50,800
12.6.2016	8.8	Just Inspire- Data Manage MVHS	\$50,000
5.2.2017	9.2	Just Inspire- supervise SIG 6 Grant	\$250,000
5.2.2017	9.3	Just Inspire- supervise SIG 7 at Williams	\$100,000
5.16.2017	8.5	Just Inspire- STEAM Camp at Hamilton, Lincoln, Turner	\$120,000
5.16.2017	8.7	Just Inspire- Grant Admin Brother's keeper Grant	\$51,000
6.6.2017	8.8	Just Inspire- Grant Admin Brother's keeper	\$25,000
7.25.2017	8.1	Just Inspire- Eval services for after school programs	\$50,000
7.25.2017	8.4	Just Inspire- Data Manage Hamilton & Williams	\$112,000
7.25.2017	8.17	Just Inspire- Data Manage MVHS	\$25,000
7.25.2017	8.21	Just Inspire- Parent U at Columbus and Hamilton	\$28,500
9.19.2017	8.1	Just Inspire- Data Manage various schools	\$195,950
12.19.2017	8.12	Just Inspire- operate GED program at MVHS	\$22,490
1.23.2018	8.6	Just Inspire- Community School After School Program at Davis	\$264,450
6.5.2018	8.1	Just Inspire- STEAM summer camp	\$240,000
6.5.2018	8.23	Just Inspire -Brother's Keeper Grant Admin.	\$25,000
8.7.2018	7.14	Just Inspire-monitor/supervise SIG 7 at Williams	\$112,000

8.7.2018	7.15	Just Inspire- monitor/supervise SIG 6 at Grimes	\$205,250
8.7.2018	7.16	Just Inspire-Data Management for 2018-2019 School Year	\$110,000
8.28.2018	8.6	Just Inspire- reimburse for summer camp supplies	\$40,000
8.28.2018	8.7	Just Inspire- Brother's Keeper Grant administration	\$76,000
9.17.2018	8.7	Just Inspire- STEAM summer camp supplies	\$40,000
10.2.2018	8.5	Just Inspire- Character Ed & STEAM Camp	\$175,200
10.2.2018	8.11	Just Inspire- Data Manage Turner	\$25,000
10.2.2018	9.9	Just Inspire- Data Manage Thornton	\$25,000
2.5.2019	8.4	Just Inspire- Model P-20 grant	\$43,500
3.5.2019	8.4	Just Inspire- Expanded PreK	\$197,673
5.7.2019	9.5	Just Inspire- STEAM summer camp	\$250,000
6.4.2019	8.6	Just Inspire- Monitor & Supervise Grants for 2019-2020	\$250,250
8.20.2019	8.7	Just Inspire- Data Management 2019-2020	\$673,000
10.1.2019	9.1	Just Inspire- Character Ed and Steam	\$175,200
11.19.2019	9.1	Just Inspire- Professional Development for Pre-K and CBO staff	\$333,987
3.3.2020	7.1	Just Inspire- Smart Scholars Program Coord., Data Manage MVHS, P-20 Grant Manage	\$70,750
6.2.2020	7.2	Just Inspire- STEAM Summer Camp	\$250,000
8.18.2020	8.1	Just Inspire-Grant Management	\$437,000
9.1.2020	7.3	Just Inspire- Data Management; Prek PD	\$474,987
3.9.2021	6.1	Just Inspire- project Manage, data analysis & reporting	\$1,800
4.6.2021	6.1	Just Inspire- STEAM Summer Camp	\$250,000
4.20.2021	7.1	Just Inspire- after school robotics at Williams	\$8,000
6.15.2021	8.1	Just Inspire- Additional STEAM Summer Camp salaries/materials	\$85,000
9.1.2021	8.1	Just Inspire- CTE Consultant MVHS 2021-2022	\$27,000
10.5.2021	8.1	Just Inspire- data manage, PD for Prek, project eval, community outreach, Pipeline to College Program	\$529,987
1.4.2022	7.1	Just Inspire - Saturday Academy	\$75,000
6.21.2022	8.2	Just Inspire- Summer STEAM Camp	\$250,000
9.21.2022	7.1	Just Inspire- data manage, PD for Prek, project eval, community outreach, Pipeline to College Program	\$559,987
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$8,522,370</b>