



January 16, 2026

Dr. Mark Kuzniewski
Interim Director of Finance and Operations
Riverside School District 96
3440 S. Harlem Avenue
Riverside, IL 60546

Re: Blythe Park Playground Project 2026
RSD96
Bid Recommendation

Dear Mark:

Vistara has received DLA's review of (2) bids received for the Blythe Park Playground Project. We offer the following summary for your consideration.

D&J Landscaping's (DJ) Base Bid is in the amount of \$386,785 (including a \$75,000 base bid general allowance). DJ's bid was judged to be the most responsive qualified bid and offered the best value to the district. The architect has confirmed the scope and value of the bid.

Review of Bids Received:

Original Budget \$750,000 (December 2025, Including Playground Equipment)
High Bid - \$543,031
Low Bid - \$386,785

A review of the above indicates that the low bid offers substantial value to the district. We recommend that RSD96 **award a contract of \$386,785 to D&J Landscaping.** The value of the playground equipment to be purchased from the Cooperative will be added to this contract at a later date.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 312-404-9530.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ramesh Nair', is written over a horizontal line.

Ramesh Nair
Principal

CC: File 26301



January 14, 2026

Mr. Mark Kuziewski
3440 S. Harlem Avenue
Riverside, IL 60546

Re: 2026 Blythe Park Playground Replacement Project
Bid Recommendation
Project # 2025.052

Dear Mr. Kuziewski:

Bids were received the afternoon of January 12th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. for the 2026 Blythe Park Playground Replacement Project. The work includes, but is not limited to, the complete removal and disposal of the existing playground equipment, surfacing, curbing, and all associated work as indicated, and the installation of new cobble paver curbing, playground equipment, and surfacing at Blythe Park Elementary School and all work as indicated in the drawings and specifications.

Plans and Specifications had been distributed to eleven potential bidders, two of whom chose to submit Bids. Following the Bid Opening, I have reviewed all of the submitted Documentation and offer the following comments.

Of the three Bids received, the lowest Responsible Bidder was D&J Landscaping. with a **Base Bid of \$386,785.00**. Included in these base bids are General Allowances in the amount of **\$75,000**.

Given the current market conditions and bidding climate, we do find that the bid amount is reasonable and appropriate for the proposed scope of work at this point in time.

Our office has contacted Ms. Griselda Davalos, corporate official for D&J Landscaping, and has verified her Bid as being complete as submitted. Following the review of the Bids, **our office would recommend that the Board accept the Base Bid and Award the project to; The D&J Landscaping for the Base Bid in the amount of \$386,785.00.**

Please find the enclosed Bid Confirmation Letter from Krull Windows, Inc. confirming their bid, the scope of the project, and the construction schedule.

Mr. Mark Kuzniewski
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Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Kelley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and the last name "Kelley" clearly distinguishable.

Ryan Kelley, AIA

Attachments:

Bid Tab Summary
Letter of Bid Confirmation

Cc:
Ramesh Nair, Vistara Construction
Steve Wright, DLA Architects

Riverside SD 96 2026 Blythe Park Playground Replacement Project
Project No. 2025.052
Bids Due: January 12, 2026 at 1:00 pm

BID TAB



Contractor	Bid Bond	Add #1	Add #2	Base Bid					Notes
D&J Landscaping	Y	Y	Y	\$386,785					
Clauss Brothers, Inc	Y	Y	Y	\$543,031					
Hacienda Landscpaing				NO BID					
Innovation Landscape, Inc.				NO BID					

Base Bid:The work includes, but is not limited to, the complete removal and disposal of the existing playground equipment, surfacing, curbing, and all associated work as indicated, and the installation of new cobble paver curbing, playground equipment, and surfacing
Allowance: \$75,000