



Community Schools

Memo

To: Board of Education
Subject: Bus Purchase
From: Amy DeYoung
Lisa Anderson
Date: December 16, 2024

The Transportation Department requested bids for two new Special Education buses. Bids were received through the MSBO Bus Purchasing Program Cooperative*.

The purchase recommendation is for 2 diesel powered buses, intended for Special Education transportation with a trade in of Special Needs bus #55.

The district has purchased 10 buses every 5 years (8 regular education; 2 Special Education). We need to purchase these buses earlier due to increased enrollment at special needs off site locations. This has resulted in high mileage on these buses and a lack of spare special needs buses.

The price difference between the two lowest bidders is \$1,126 per bus. The recommendation for the bus purchase is from Midwest Transit in the amount of \$168,840 per bus for a total purchase price of \$337,680. This includes the trade-in of 1 bus in the amount of \$13,346. Gull Lake Transportation Department has parts stocked for International buses which is what Midwest Transit carries. We do not recommend Hoekstra because they carry Thomas buses. My experience while at Parchment with Thomas buses was not good. Many repairs were needed on new buses.

Per bus cost (Includes trade-in amount)

Hoekstra	Holland	Midwest Transit
\$167,714.00	\$177,106.00	\$168,840



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*In 1994, Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) joined with Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) to initiate a group bus purchasing program to save their members time, money, and concern. With cooperation from school bus vendors, the MSBO Bus Specifications Committee combined to design a program in which all districts could take advantage of group purchasing, regardless of the size of their order.