



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Dr. Albert G. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Therese M. O'Neill, Asst. Supt. Finance & Operations

SUBJECT: Classroom Furniture – Phase 3

DATE: March 18, 2014

In December 2010, Lowery McDonnell conducted a walk-through of all our elementary schools to assess the age and quality of all classroom furniture (both student and teacher) by school and grade level, and prepared an analysis which became the blueprint for dollars contained in our referendum vision for furniture replacement.

With the commencement of the 2011-12 school year, the eight elementary principals and I worked to create two classroom standards – one for Kindergarten, First and Second grade classrooms and, the second for Third, Fourth and Fifth grade classrooms. Once that was completed, each principal took a grade level and met with the respective grade level teachers to derive their input to these standards. Then we came back together, as a group, with this grade level teacher input, and finalized these standards in order to create the bid document.

Over the summer of 2012, Beye School (or Phase 1 of this referendum vision endeavor) was completely emptied out and then fully outfitted with all brand new student/teacher furniture. Over the summer of 2013, three additional schools (Hatch, Lincoln and Mann), or Phase 2, were addressed. In preparing for Phase 3 (Holmes, Irving, Longfellow & Whittier Schools), the bid document was prepared with a legal notice appearing in the Oak Leaves on February 20, 2014 calling for a bid opening on March 6, 2014 and an “equal to” meeting on February 27, 2014. In the event any vendor had furniture “equal to” what was specified on the bid, an opportunity to present it was provided. Two firms were present for this “equal to” meeting – Lowery McDowell and Frank Cooney Company although four vendors requested the bid specification. The other two firms were: Larson Equipment Company and Education Intelligence. Inc.

On March 6, 2014, only two bids were received (one complete – Lowery McDowell) and one partial (Frank Cooney Company). Please see attached summary. Of the 12 items Frank Cooney chose to bid upon, in only three instances were Lowery McDowell's unit price higher (noted in blue). In all other nine instances, Lowery McDowell was lower (noted in red). If I were to total the 12 items Frank Cooney chose to bid upon and compare those same 12 items with Lowery McDowell, Frank Cooney's total (exclusive of the \$32,000 allowance for furniture removal) was \$360,861.80 compared to Lowery McDowell's total of \$318,403.00 (also exclusive of the \$32,000 allowance for furniture removal).

Therefore, in order to maximize our effort in dealing with a lone vendor for completion of this project, I am recommending award to Lowery McDowell in the total amount of \$954,847.70 (inclusive of the \$32,000 allowance for furniture removal). In the past two summers, this allowance has come in lower than the estimated amount.

Our referendum vision allocated \$1,800,000 for this overall project. The total for Phase I was \$219,152, under the bid amount of \$223,076; the total for Phase II was \$656,595, under the bid amount of \$662,558. These two amounts plus the proposed \$954,848 would equal a grand total of \$1,830,595, slightly over our budget estimate for this overall referendum vision project.

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attachment (1)

Furniture Bid Summary
(Holmes, Irvng, Longfellow Whittier)

March 7, 2014

Item	Frank Cooney Company			Lowery McDowell Company	
	Unit Price	Total Price		Unit Price	Total Price
BC-1 3-Shelf 48" Bookcase	\$198.40	\$49,004.80		\$249.00	\$61,503.00
CH-1 Student Chair - 12"				\$40.50	\$6,723.00
CH-2 Student Chair - 14"				\$42.60	\$45,241.20
CH-3 Student Chair - 16"				\$44.00	\$60,588.00
CH-4 Student Chair - 18"				\$45.50	\$57,557.50
CH-5 Teacher Chair				\$203.00	\$31,059.00
CH-6 Teacher Rocking Chair	\$221.80	\$11,755.40		\$226.00	\$11,978.00
CH-7 Fixed Height Stool	\$24.30	\$2,138.40		\$23.00	\$2,024.00
DE-1 Student Desk with Book Box				\$109.00	\$135,705.00
DE-2 Mobile Teacher Desk	\$723.90	\$87,591.90		\$654.00	\$79,134.00
FC-1 Mobile Teacher File with Top Cap	\$278.10	\$40,602.60		\$206.00	\$30,076.00
MS-1 Student Mailbox, 24 Slot	\$183.20	\$19,236.00		\$168.00	\$17,640.00
MS-2 Mobile Teacher Lectern	\$482.60	\$54,533.80		\$382.00	\$43,166.00
MS-3 Learning Carpet	\$363.50	\$15,267.00		\$358.00	\$15,036.00
ST-1 Student Bin Storage, Tall Cabinets				\$706.00	\$93,192.00
ST-2 Student Bin Storage - Short Cabinets				\$549.00	\$56,547.00
ST-3 Teacher Storage Cabinets, Mobile				\$808.00	\$100,192.00
TA-1 Activity Table, Round	\$101.90	\$10,801.40		\$99.00	\$10,494.00
TA-2 Activity Table, Kidney	\$166.30	\$17,794.10		\$130.00	\$13,910.00
TA-3 Activity Table, Rectangle	\$104.00	\$40,144.00		\$101.00	\$38,986.00
TA-4 Art Table with Laminate Top	\$428.30	\$11,992.40		\$432.00	\$12,096.00
Sub-Total		\$360,861.80			\$922,847.70
Allowance		\$32,000.00			\$32,000.00
Grand Total		\$392,861.80			\$954,847.70
Grand Total - Bid Items Only		\$360,861.80			\$318,403.00

Blue = unit prices where McDowell is higher
Red = unit prices where McDowell is lower
Black = bid items by both companies