



...the educational prism through which students realize meaning and purpose in their lives...

**TO: Members, Board of Education
Dr. Constance Collins, Superintendent**

FROM: Therese M. O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

RE: Transportation Contract

DATE: June 21, 2010

In the Thursday, May 27, 2010 issue of the Oak Leaves, a legal notice calling for a bid opening for both Regular and Special Education transportation was published. Included in that legal notice was notice that a mandatory pre-bid meeting would occur on Friday, June 1, 2010. At that time, nine transportation vendors attended and clarifications regarding both sets of bid specifications were made.

On Friday, June 11, 2010, five bids were received for Regular Transportation and five bids were received for Special Education; however, one of those five was significantly incomplete and was not considered in the analyses. Attached you will find a spreadsheet for each of the two contracts: Regular and Special Education, copy of the legal notice, and listing of vendors present for the mandatory pre-bid meeting.

It is clear that the current vendor, Lakeview Bus Lines is the low, responsible bidder on the Regular Transportation contract, in the total amount of \$1,174,932 (exclusive of field trip costs). Lakeview has been the provider of both regular and special education transportation for Oak Park District 97 for the past 21 years. However, in terms of the Special Education transportation bid, the low, responsible bidder is Illinois Central School Bus. The difference between the two firms, over the three-year period of time is \$38,569. Given that Illinois Central School Bus is a new vendor, a thorough follow-up on references occurred, all providing very favorable responses to inquiries about level of service, communication and promptness of routes. In one instance, one school district has completed the mandatory 5-year cycle and has rebid and renewed with Illinois Central School Bus. Recognizing that Illinois Central School Bus is the low, responsible bidder, both the Director of Special Education and I are recommending award of the Special Education Transportation contract to Illinois Central School Bus, in the total amount of \$1,951,991.36 (exclusive of out-of-district routes).

All vendors being considered for the special education transportation contract, provided the necessary bid guarantee, appropriate certificates of insurance, contractor resume and required appendices (including Certificate of Eligibility to Contract, Certificate of Drug Free Workplace, Certificate of Non-Discrimination, Certificate of Sexual Harassment Policy and executed Transportation Services contract).

Recognizing the transition of bus companies for special education students, the Director of Special Education and I will schedule a meeting between now and prior to the July 13, 2010 meeting to share expectations of parents and District 97 with Illinois Central School Bus to insure the level of service, promptness of routes, and communication with parents is of the standard previously provided by Lakeview Bus Lines. In the event, over the course of the 2010-11 school year, Illinois Central School Bus does not provide this outstanding level of expected service between September, 2010 through March, 2011, a recommendation will come to the Board for non-renewal of the second year of this contract.

Both companies responded to the two Alternates, one being what additional cost would be incurred if video cameras were installed on buses and Illinois Central School Bus was lower than Lakeview Bus Lines (\$2.12 per bus per day versus \$6.50 per bus per day). The second alternate was what additional cost would be incurred if hybrid buses were desired by the district and Illinois Central School Bus was \$227.27 per bus per day while Lakeview's was \$105 per bus per day (although Lakeview provided four options) and qualified their options indicating that there is only one hybrid vehicle in the State of Illinois for the smaller buses utilized for special education. However, for regular education, the comparison would be between Illinois Central School Bus' \$227.27 per bus per day versus Lakeview Bus Lines' \$105 per bus per day.

Attachments (4)

