

CRETE-MONEE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Committee of the Whole Meeting – March 11, 2025

Discussion to approve and accept the bid results for Special Education and Pre-K pupil transportation services for the district. Four bids were submitted. Submitting vendors were Yellow Bus Group, First Student (current provider), Cook-Illinois Corporation and North America Central-Illinois Central.

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The Issue:

Competitive bids were solicited to obtain a comprehensive understanding of prevailing market rates and the quality of services offered.

Justification:

In order to stay aligned with Illinois bid laws and Procedures, District 201-U has publicly requested proposals for Special Education and Pre-K education transportation services for a period of time of three years.

First Student is our current provider for Special Education and Pre-K education transportation.

Board Policy and Past Practices

It is the board policy to purchase/contract in accordance with the state bid law.

Strategic Plan:

Optimize Funding & Safeguard Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship.

Community Impact:

Cost effective, safe, and reliable student transportation is an integral part of our daily operations.

Supporting Data:

This Bid was advertised in the Sun-Times newspaper and placed on the District Website. Four bids were received. Bid(s) were received from Yellow Bus Group, First Student (current provider), Cook-Illinois Corporation, and North America Central-Illinois Central. First Student was the lowest bidder with a total estimated 3 year cost of \$10,246,600.74. Cook-Illinois was the second lowest bidder with a total estimated 3 year cost of \$12,078,856.64, Yellow Bus Group was the third lowest bidder with a total estimated 3 year of \$14,016,517.71 and North American Central-Illinois Central was the highest bidder with a total estimated 3 year cost of \$14,530,539.48

See Attached Bid Summary and Route Pricing Details

Financial Impact:

The bid from First Student is a 10% increase from this current year to next year. Prior to going out to bid, First Student proposed a 22% increase for next year. The subsequent years of the contract will see a 4% increase each year. An increase of 5% was proposed in the fall with the extension. These expenditures will be paid from the 40 fund and a portion of the increase will be reimbursable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board award the “Special Education and Pre-K Transportation” bid as presented by First Student. Below is language included in the bid specifications to support the recommendation.

Per Public Act 97-951 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21), the contract will be awarded by first considering the bidder or bidders most able to provide safety and comfort for the students, the stability of their service, conformity with specifications, terms of delivery, quality and serviceability, and then price as the Board deems necessary and appropriate in the best interest of the Board.

