

## **CRETE-MONEE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Committee of the Whole Meeting – December 10, 2024

Discussion to approve and accept the bid results for regular pupil education transportation services for the district. Three bids were submitted. Submitting vendors were Yellow Bus Group, First Student (current provider), 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 regular pupil education transportation services for a period of time of three years.

Yellow Bus Group incorporated in July of 2024. They currently have 3 employees and space leased in the area.

First Student is our current provider for regular pupil 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. Six vendors attended the mandatory bid meeting. Three bids were received. Bid(s) were received from Yellow Bus Group, First Student (current provider), and North America Central-Illinois Central. Yellow Bus Group was the lowest bidder with a total estimated 3 year cost of \$17,260,195.39. First Student (our current provider) was the second lowest bidder with a total estimated 3 year cost of \$18,510,882.61, and North American Central-Illinois Central was the highest bidder with a total estimated 3 year cost of \$19,224,861.30.

*See Attached Bid Summary and Route Pricing Details*

### **Financial Impact:**

The bid from First Student is a 4.9% increase from this current year to next year and a 4.25% increase each subsequent year of the contract. These expenditures will be paid from the 40 fund and a majority of the increase will be reimbursable.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board award the “Regular Pupil 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.*