



# Livonia Public Schools

*Finance Office*

Date: August 10, 2023

To: Andrea Oquist, Superintendent

From: Alison Smith, Chief Financial Officer

Re: School Bus Purchase

Availability of new school buses for purchase has been very limited the last several years. Last week, Holland Bus Company, one of a few select dealerships throughout North America approved to sell Micro Bird buses, informed the district that Micro Bird, a bus manufacturing company, has ten GM chassis coming available for our region in October. Due to the very limited supply, I'm seeking the Board of Education's approval to add this item for discussion at our upcoming August 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting.

I am recommending the purchase of five 2024 Micro Bird G5, 30 passenger, GM chassis, engine 6.6 V8 gas buses, for a total cost of \$459,035.00 from Holland Bus Company utilizing 2021 Bond funds. We have five remaining Type A 2014 30 passenger buses that were delivered in the summer of 2013. These are currently the oldest buses in our fleet. This purchase of five new buses would replace the five remaining Type A 2014 30 passenger buses.

Historically, the district has made its purchase of buses through the Michigan School Business Official (MSBO) bus purchase program, which fulfills the district's bidding requirements. Typically, three bus vendors respond to MSBO's Invitation to Bid: Midwest Transit Equipment, Hoekstra Transportation, and Holland Bus Company. Midwest Transit Equipment is the approved dealer of buses manufactured by Collins. Hoekstra Transportation is the approved dealer of buses manufactured by Thomas. Holland Bus Company is the approved dealer of buses manufactured by Micro Bird.

The MSBO bus purchase program is currently closed until October and therefore this purchase would not run through the program. I believe, for several reasons, we should proceed with placing the order now upon the Board's approval. First, waiting for the MSBO program to reopen in October could jeopardize the availability of chassis for our order. Secondly, Holland Bus Company is not only a school bus dealer; they also provide parts and services for the buses they sell. The district has been very pleased with its ongoing working relationship with

Holland and it is our preference to continue to do business with them. Also, most of our bus fleet are Blue Birds, which means our garage is stocked with Blue Bird parts. Switching to another manufacturer isn't as efficient for our garage and would require stocking different parts. Lastly, the research the district has done confirms the price quoted by Holland Bus Company is competitive and a good value for our district.

Attached is the quote that was submitted. Please include this item on the August 14, 2023, Finance Committee meeting agenda. As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

AS/kv

c: Board of Education