



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

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

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

**RE: Transportation Contract**

**DATE: June 22, 2010**

In the previous memorandum to the Board prepared and sent yesterday afternoon, the process, analysis and recommendation to the Board of Education specific to the both the regular and special education transportation contracts was shared.

As a result of an extensive telephone conversation this morning with the District's legal counsel and his more detailed review of recent legislation governing Public Act 96-392, the administration is amending its original recommendation specific to the special education transportation contract. For your information, Public Act 96-392, which took effect on January 1, 2010, adds an additional exception to the statutory requirement that all contracts be awarded, after publication, to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The amendment provides that for contracts for the transportation of students with special needs or disabilities, the contract must be advertised and awarded, "by first considering the bidder or bidders most able to provide safety and comfort for the pupils with special needs or disabilities, stability of service, and any other factors set forth in the request for proposal regarding quality of service, and then price." (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a)(xvi).

Our bid specifications for the special education transportation contract reflect this new amendment. The bid specifications permit the Board to consider all factors set forth in the bid specifications in awarding the contract.

The administration has reviewed all the bids. As part of the review, the administration has reviewed the level and quality of service of our current vendor, Lakeview Bus Lines. Lakeview has provided outstanding service to our special needs students and parents as reflected by the overwhelming show of support by that segment of our school community. Lakeview is the second lowest bidder in terms of price. Without taking into consideration any alternative bids, the difference between the lowest bidder, Illinois Central School Bus, and Lakeview, the second lowest bidder, is \$38,569 over three years.

Based upon our review of the bidders and the outstanding performance of our current vendor, the administration finds that Lakeview will continue to be able to best provide for the safety and comfort of students with special needs or disabilities, considering stability of service and the other factors set forth in the bid package. Therefore, the administration recommends awarding the special education transportation contract to Lakeview Bus Lines.

