



**COPPELL**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Empowering Educational Excellence*

Board Action Required

No Action Required

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To: Coppell ISD Board of Trustees  
From: Sid Grant  
Date: October 12, 2017

cc: Brad Hunt, Kelly Penny, Louis Macias, Larry Guerra

**Re: Purchase of New International School Buses – Bond Project #5**

Due to significantly increased and unexpected school bus ridership this school year (e.g. approximately 1,000 additional riders), we have added ten (10) additional student bus routes so far this school year over last year. The majority of these routes (e.g. 60 percent of the general education additional routes) are related to the southern part of the school district, including The Bridges, Parkside East and Parkside West. With the additional 206 single family home development (e.g. Stonegate) completing the construction of new homes later this school year, we anticipate adding additional routes for this neighborhood, as well, before the end of this school year.

While we purchased a fleet of 65 used buses from Dallas County Schools and an additional three (3) new 77 passenger buses when we made the transition to Durham, we are needing fourteen (14) additional large buses to replace about five (5) older buses, manage the growth in ridership we are experiencing, and to have sufficient buses for student field trips and UIL competitions. Currently, we are “borrowing” 5 to 12 buses daily from Durham in order to have enough buses to run our routes and manage field trips and other district student travel.

I have included an attachment that reconciles our need to immediately purchase fourteen (14) new large 77 passenger buses. Depending on actual student growth and the percentage of student ridership for the new 9<sup>th</sup> grade center, we may need additional buses for next school year.

The buses requested have the exact same specifications as the three buses purchased earlier this year. They will be 2018 model, 77 passenger, International buses with Cummins diesel engines. Each bus is outfitted with the latest safety equipment, including three point shoulder strap seat belts for every passenger and air conditioning. The buses also meet Durham’s preferred specifications, including all safety equipment, engine and other equipment.

In order to pay for fourteen (14) new 77 passenger buses at a total cost of \$1,341,888.00, we recommend using savings from our first 2016 bond election sale. After the first \$91 million sale, we are approximately \$2.3 million under budget on projects, plus we have an additional \$1.8 million unspent that was set aside for potential solar panels at the new middle school, for a total of \$4.1 million available dollars.

In accordance with Texas State Law 44.031, Subchapter B, and in compliance with TEA purchasing laws, pricing from Longhorn Bus Sales was received via the TASB BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative.

Last school year, when the decision was made to transition from Dallas County Schools to Durham, our Director of Purchasing, Larry Guerra, requested proposals in May of 2017 for approximately forty five (45) new school buses. At that time, Longhorn Bus Sales submitted the proposal that not only most closely met our and Durham's preferred specifications, but also was the best over dollar value. Through the TASB BuyBoard, Longhorn Bus Sales is honoring the same price per unit for the fourteen buses that they submitted for the entire fleet in May of this year. If approved by the Board of Trustees on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Longhorn anticipates they will have the new buses to us by mid to late March, 2018.

In addition to the new buses, it will be necessary to add additional concrete bus parking spaces at the CISD Service Center. Mr. Louis Macias is working with our civil engineer to design the additional spaces. We anticipate bringing a recommendation to the Board for the parking addition in November of this year.

I will be out of town for the Board meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, so I encourage any Board member with questions to please submit them to me prior to that date. Kelly Penny, Larry Guerra, and representatives from Durham will be present at the meeting to present the proposal and answer any additional questions. We also plan to have one of our new 77 passenger International buses with the exact same specifications available prior to the Board meeting for our Board members to tour. We will have it in the parking lot at the Vonita White Administration building starting at 5:00pm.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Coppel ISD Board of Trustees approve Longhorn Bus Sales as the vendor to supply fourteen (14) International 77 passenger student school buses at a total cost of \$1,341,888.00.