

# **Proposal #090507 for Language Labs**

**July 28, 2009**

## **SUMMARY:**

This item requests approval of proposal #090507 for the purchase of five new language labs plus middle school #7, when completed. Proposals were received from Teaching Systems, Multimedia Learning Systems and ASC Direct. The proposal will be held open until the purchase is made for middle school #7.

## **BOARD GOAL:**

VI Growth & Change...review and adjust policies and procedures effectively to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community.

## **PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:**

The 2007 Bond Project includes new language labs, two each, at Denton and Ryan High. The 2004 Bond includes the funds for one lab at Harpool Middle School.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The 2007 Bond includes the replacement of the language labs at Denton and Ryan. These two schools have the older analog version of the Sony SANS lab that is no longer being supported.

The 2002 Bond included funds for two language labs at Guyer. The Sony lab was purchased for Guyer from Teaching Systems through the State of Texas CISV program.

The 2004 Bond includes one language lab each for the two new middle schools, Navo and Harpool. The Sony lab for Navo was purchased from Teaching Systems through the State of Texas CISV program. The CISV program has since been discontinued. This proposal will be used to purchase the lab for Harpool Middle School.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:**

A committee including Dr. Joan Davis, Secondary Language Curriculum Coordinator, the three high school language department chairs, Stephen Shade at Guyer, Vince McGee at Ryan and Cristina Galindo at DHS, plus Robert Bostic, Director of Instructional Technology and Kathy Arrington, Purchasing Agent met to evaluate and rank the proposals.

The committee members reviewed each system submitted. The department chairs visited different locations and/or called references to gather data about each system. It was determined that the Sony SANS from Teaching Systems and ReLANpro from ASC Direct had many comparable features. The committee ranked Teaching Systems with 99 points, ASC Direct with 96 points and MLS with 95 points.

The final determining factor between the two highest ranked systems was consistency and familiarity district wide. The language labs are used not only for foreign language study; they are used for things such as Pre-AP testing. The committee felt that it would be best for any student and/or teacher using any system to recognize and be able to utilize all of the features. Having different systems around the district would not allow for the easy movement of teachers or students between schools. A single system would also make it easier for students moving from middle school to high school.

The committee chose the Virtuoso Major Lab and furniture to become the district language lab standard. This is the version already used at Guyer and Navo. By purchasing the two labs for Ryan, two labs for Denton and one lab for Harpool at the same time, Teaching Systems has offered a 10% discount on the software.

Teaching Systems also offered a 50% discount for the yearly maintenance fees. The maintenance fee is generally 5% of the cost of the lab. This is the one area that was of concern to the committee. The maintenance fees have been very expensive in the past, even though the fee includes all new software upgrades and/or additions to the systems plus on-site technical support. The new fee will be 2.5%. In addition, the Guyer and Navo labs will receive the latest upgrades for free.

The labs purchased from Teaching Systems will include the software, teacher console, equipment, and carrels. The district purchases the computers using our district standard model from Dell Computers, and student chairs from Virco Manufacturing.

The final pricing assumes 30-student labs. Depending upon the size of the rooms assigned for the language labs, there could be fewer carrels in a room. The pricing would then be adjusted for the decreased size. We are meeting with the architects and Teaching Systems to determine the number of carrels we can place in each lab.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

2004 Bond Funds will be used to purchase the lab for Harpool Middle School.  
2007 Bond Funds will be used to purchase the two labs for Denton High and two labs for Ryan High.  
2007 Bond Funds-phase II will be used to purchase the lab for Middle School #7.

Maintenance fees year two and beyond will come from district operating funds.

**BENEFIT OF ACTION:**

Passage will allow teachers the most up to date software and equipment to assist with student observation, language proficiency, and testing.

**PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:**

None

**ALTERNATIVES:**

No alternative actions are proposed.

**OTHER COMMENTS:**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the proposal submitted by Teaching Systems, for the Virtuoso Major Lab and furniture with a 10% software discount and 50% maintenance fee discount be accepted.

**STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:**

- Dr. Joan Curtis, Coordinator of Secondary Language Arts
- Robert Bostic, Director of Instructional Technology
- Stephen Shade, Guyer Language Department Chair
- Vince McGee, Ryan Language Department Chair
- Cristina Galindo, Denton Language Department Chair
- Kathy Arrington, Purchasing Agent

**ATTACHMENT:**

Proposal Tabulation, Ranking, Changes/Clarifications

**APPROVAL:**

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_