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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 23, 2010

At last evening's Board meeting, the following questions were raised regarding the award of regular and special education transportation contracts, including:

1. What is the total cost of both regular and special education transportation (base bid, alternate 1 [video cameras], and alternate 2 [hybrid buses])?
2. Are video cameras a one-time cost or ongoing cost?
3. Can Life/Fire/Safety money be used for the cameras on the buses given ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) authorized its use for video cameras for the two middle schools?
4. What would be the additional cost of hybrid buses?
5. Given that, without inclusion of the video camera cost, the second lowest bidder is being recommended for award specific to the special education transportation contract, what is the justification for awarding both contracts to Lakeview Bus Lines?

Here are the responses to these questions:

1. Attached are two spreadsheets – one for regular transportation and one for special education transportation. Specific to Regular Education – Lakeview Bus Lines is the low bidder in a total amount of \$1,187,516 (base bid plus alternate #1) compared to Illinois Central School Bus' bid of \$1,187,663.84 (base bid plus alternate #1). Lakeview Bus Lines is lower by \$147.84.

If you include alternate #2 (hybrid buses), the total for Lakeview Bus Lines (base bid plus both alternates #1 and #2) is \$1,797,356 compared to Illinois School Central Bus (base bid plus both alternates #1 and #2) is \$2,507,648, which represents a difference of \$710,292. However, the administration is recommending no award for alternate #2 at this time but suggests investigating its viability for the future.

Specific to Special Education Transportation – Illinois School Central Bus is the low bidder in a total amount of \$1,958,334.40 (base bid plus alternate #1) compared to Lakeview Bus Lines’ bid of \$2,010,008 (base bid plus alternate #1). Illinois School Central Bus is lower by \$51,673.60.

If you include alternate #2 (hybrid buses), the total for Lakeview Bus Lines (base bid plus both alternates #1 and #2), is \$2,324,168 compared to Illinois School Central Bus (base bid plus both alternates #1 and #2) is \$2,638,326.24, which represents a difference of \$314,158.24. However, the administration is recommending no award for alternate #2 at this time but suggests investigating its viability for the future.

2. I have confirmed with both vendors that video cameras would be a one-time cost; therefore, the total for Lakeview Bus Lines (both regular and special education) would be \$31,032 compared to \$10,447.36 for Illinois School Central Bus.
3. I spoke with a representative from the Illinois State Board of Education this morning who previously gave us authority to use Life/Fire/Safety monies for funding of video cameras in our two middle schools. She investigated and informed me that video cameras on buses would not be eligible for funding because the cameras are not being installed into a permanent or temporary school facility. So, these monies would have to be allocated from Education or Operations & Maintenance Fund dollars.
4. Comparing like options (Option #3 of Lakeview Bus Lines) to Illinois School Central Bus, as well as recognizing this cost is an annual versus a one-time cost, for the three years bid for regular transportation, Lakeview’s total is \$609,840 compared to a total of \$1,319,984.16 for Illinois School Central Bus. For special education, the comparison is \$942,480 for Lakeview and \$2,039,975.52 for Illinois School Central Bus. However, as stated earlier, the Administration is recommending not awarding this alternate until more investigation is completed.
5. Attached is a statement from District 97’s director of special education statement regarding his justification to award the special education contract to its current provider, Lakeview Bus Lines, utilizing Public Act 96-392 as his foundation.

It continues to be the recommendation of the administration that a contract be awarded to Lakeview Bus Lines for both its regular and special education transportation contracts.

Attachments (3)