



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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**TO: Dr. Albert G. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools**

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

**RE: Mobile Cafeteria Tables**

**DATE: May 28, 2013**

In March of this year, I received an email from John Hodge indicating that seven of his wall-mounted lunch tables were in extremely poor condition, so much so that he had had several incidents where both the table and bench would tip over. I immediately had both our Director of Buildings & Grounds and Food Service Coordinator investigate this immediate need and I was apprised of the need to completely replace these tables. Rather than simply addressing this one school, I directed these two individuals to walk each of our 10 school buildings to assess the age, condition, as well as safety of our existing tables.

After their assessment, it was reported to me that 82 of the existing lunch tables needed replacement. In many instances the wall mounted tables – given the coming down from and pushing back into the wall – have become insecure to the point that, at times, they are extremely loose and unstable. Both the benches as well as the table tops are completely worn away and the repair parts are difficult to acquire due to the age of the tables and benches.

Recognizing the need to address this problem, a bid document was prepared and the appropriate legal notice, which is attached, announcing a bid opening on May 9, 2013, was published in the April 25, 2013 issue of the Oak Leaves. Included in the bid specifications was a requirement for an “as equal” meeting to be conducted on May 2, 2013. At the “as equal” meeting, three vendors were present and one, Frank Cooney Company, presented a different manufacturer’s table for consideration. However, it was determined that this table was not “as equal” to the specified table. The specified table had a spring - facilitating opening/closing; the bench could be removed to accommodate accessibility seating, if needed; and the manufacturer was available locally for replacement parts. For these reasons, the proposed “as equal” table was rejected.

At the bid opening on May 9, 2013, three bids were received (see attached bid summary). The vendor proposing the alternative table, who is the low responsible bidder, misunderstood that his table was rejected; thus, the reason for his submission of a bid. I have since spoken with the president of the company and he has confirmed with his representative that this table was rejected. I have further discussed this matter with our legal counsel and he has assured us that we did everything appropriately and legally and can support our rejection of this bid.

Therefore, I am recommending award of this bid to Lowery McDonnell in the total amount of \$75,306 for 82 mobile cafeteria tables. This expenditure will be built into the 2013-14 budget, included in the food service department program lines. This recommendation will return to the Board for approval at its June 11, 2013 meeting.

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attachments (2)

# LEGAL NOTICE

## Invitation to Bid – Mobile Cafeteria Tables

Oak Park Elementary School District 97 will receive sealed bids at the District's Administrative Offices – 970 West Madison Street – Oak Park, IL (60302) until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2013.

Specifications may be obtained from Therese M. O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations – Administration Building – 970 West Madison Street – Oak Park, IL (60302) – [toneill@op97.org](mailto:toneill@op97.org), commencing Thursday, April 25, 2013.

Only those bids complying with the provisions and specifications of the bid will be considered. The opportunity to share “or equal alternates” to the specifications is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2013 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Beye Elementary School – 230 N. Cuyler – Oak Park, IL). The Board of Education reserves the right to waive any informalities, qualifications or irregularities, and/or reject any and all proposals, when, in its opinion, such action will serve the best interest of the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97.

Sheryl Marinier  
Board Secretary

Mobile Cafeteria Tables  
May 9, 2013  
Bid Summary

	Frank Cooney Company	Larson Equipment Company	Lowery McDonnell Company
Total Bid - Delivered & Installed	\$61,524 *	\$100,398	\$75,306
Bid Bond Submitted	Yes	Yes	Yes
* Alternate Table to specified table			