

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #19
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FOR
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010

PRESENT: Janice Chamberlain, Fran Archambault, Bob Kremer, Jim Mark, Elizabeth Peczuh, Tim Nolan, Herb Arico, Cherie Trahan, Bruce Silva and M&J Bus Company guests: Michael Collins, Michael Beebe and Staff

ABSENT: Mike Sibiga

Ms. Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Silva introduced Mr. Collins and Mr. Beebe from the M&J Bus Company. M&J were the bus contractors selected by the Willington Public Schools for a new 3 year contract starting on July 1, 2010. They were the low bidders. Mr. Silva briefly reviewed information about the Willington bidding process and provided a summary sheet of the bid information prepared by Superintendent, David Harding.

Mr. Silva requested that the Finance Committee exercise a provision in the District's financial policies to award the Region #19 Bus contract to M&J without going out to bid separately. The rationale he provided for not going out to bid was for the following reasons:

1. M&J was the low bidder for the K-8 transportation bid.
2. Additional savings will be realized by "cooperating" with the Willington Board by using the same bus contractor for high school students.
3. M&J was highly recommended by other school districts for their services

Company representatives responded to committee member's questions regarding the new proposed seatbelt law, vehicle maintenance, safety procedures, driver training, contracts, insurance and experience.

Ms. Trahan reported that Attorney, Dennis O'Brien reviewed the Board's policy and agreed that awarding the contract to M&J is legal and would be in keeping with Region 19 District policies.

Mr. Silva agreed to make revisions to Willington's contract and to calculate all the costs of implementing the new bus contract with M&J next year. He indicated that he will also be working with Superintendent Harding to see if Region 19 can use the Willington fuel depot for next year.

Mr. Silva also suggested that should money be available at the end of the year (July 2010), in the current budget, he will be requesting that the Board purchase instructional technology.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

RWSQ

BWS/