

TO: DR. WANDA BAMBERG, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

FROM: ANNE HAZZAN, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE
 DR. ARCHIE BLANSON, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT
 CYNTHIA BINGMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
 TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

RE: E-RATE YEAR 17 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) INTERNAL CONNECTION PROJECTS
 FOR HAMBRICK MIDDLE SCHOOL

The “E-Rate” program of the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Support Mechanism provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable Telecommunications and Internet Access. Four service categories are funded: Telecommunications Services, Internet Access, Internal Connections and Internal Connections for Basic Maintenance. Discounts range from 20% to 90% of the cost of eligible services, depending on the level of poverty, defined by the SLD as students eligible to receive Free and Reduced Lunch and the urban/rural status of the population served.

Aldine ISD’s discount rate varies between 80% to 90% based on campus eligibility. This means Aldine pays 10% to 20% of the eligible portions and all of the ineligible portions of awarded projects if funded by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD).

Applying for funding through E-Rate is similar to applying for a competitive grant. These monies are not guaranteed. In case Aldine does not receive funding, we budget local funds for essential services. The total grant value potential is **\$908,166.27**. If all projects are awarded, Aldine’s estimated matching funds would be **\$141,047.30**.

At the January 14, 2014 School Board meeting, the Aldine ISD School Board awarded IC-04-Y17 Hambrick Middle School Infrastructure Upgrade project to Fisk Electric. We received formal notification via email and letter from Fisk Electric on January 23, 2014 withdrawing their proposal for this project. The Technology Services Department released a new RFP for Hambrick Middle School on January 24th, 2014.

Requests for proposals (RFP) were sent to over 400 vendors on January 24th, 2014 by mail and over 350 by e-mail and a newspaper ad was listed in the Houston Chronicle on January 24th and 27th, 2014.

The following E-rate Year 17 proposal contract will begin July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 unless funding is delayed. In this case, the contract will commence when funding is approved.

Summary of Year 17 E-Rate - Vendor Selection							
RFP Description	Company	Reason for Selection, Lose, and/or Disqualification	Disc. %	SLD's Portion (estimate portion)	Aldine's Portion (estimate portion)	Total Project Cost	
IC-24-Y17 Hambrick Middle School Infrastructure Upgrade	Fisk Electric		90%	\$728,982.10	\$189,614.76	\$918,596.86	
	Solid IT Networks	Lowest complete proposal	90%	\$767,118.97	\$141,047.30	\$908,166.27	*
				\$767,118.97	\$141,047.30	\$908,166.27	

All proposals received were evaluated by the Instruction Technology Specialist for the proposed campus and the Technology Services Department. Each proposal was evaluated by six individuals with a scoring range of 0 – 100 and a total possible score of 600 with price weighing higher than any other single factor.

* I recommend Solid IT Networks for the Hambrick Middle School Upgrade. The proposal contract will begin July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 unless funding is delayed. In this case, the contract will commence when funding is approved.

** Did not meet RFP specifications.

Recommendation: I join Mrs. Hazzan, Dr. Blanson and Mrs. Bingman in recommending the proposal for E-Rate Year 17 be awarded as outlined above.