

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held August 12, 2020, by video and audio conference, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. Present were members Chair John Weldon, Joseph Sokolovic, and Joseph Lombard. Board members Hernan Illingworth and Albert Benejan was present.

Mr. Sokolovic moved approval of the minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on awarding purchase of commodity food items for the 2020-21 school year. John Garrity, director of food and nutrition, was present.

Mr. Weldon said various companies submitted various bid responses and in the absence of disqualification the low bidder is chosen.

In response to a question, Mr. Garrity said all the proposed awardees were the lowest bidders with the exception of beef meatballs because the competitors to Maid Rite were not providing the same quality as specified. Mr. Garrity said USDA provides Bridgeport a dollar amount each year based on meal counts from the previous year, which are used to purchase raw commodities such as beef, chicken, turkey, cheese, eggs, fruits, fish and vegetables, that are sent to a processor to be completed into a finished product. For a

finished product Maid Rite is the third lowest bidder but it was the brand specified in the bid. He said taste-testing surveys, which are documented, determined the two lower bidders' product to be inferior.

Mr. Sokolovic said when these awards were handled at the Students & Families Committee he was only asking for documentation of items that were proposed to be awarded that were not the lowest bids. He suggested in this be the case in the future. Mr. Weldon said he agreed.

Mr. Garrity said the bids were 10.4 cents per portion from Tyson, JTM at 14.5 cents, and Maid Rite at 17.4 cents. He said if not calculating the commodity value within each product, Maid Rite would be the lowest price at 49 cents per serving.

Mr. Sokolovic moved *"to refer to the full board a recommendation to award purchase of commodity food items for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the director of food and nutrition services."* The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on awarding purchase of non-commodity commercial food, paper goods, and cleaning supplies for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Garrity said all the proposed awards are to the lowest bidders.

In response to a question, Mr. Garrity said butter was awarded to Guida Dairy, with the award going to Wade Dairy if Guida would not deliver the item. Guida bid \$2.54 per pound and Wade \$2.60.

In response to a question, Mr. Garrity said Cream-O-Land of New Jersey was the low bidder on milk and has a good record on deliveries. He said only three companies bid on dairy products.

Mr. Weldon suggested Mr. Garrity contact Guida to see if they wished to proceed with just the butter item.

In response to a question, Mr. Garrity said the commodity purchases of raw products exceeds a million dollars.

Mr. Lombard moved *“to refer to the Board of Education with a recommendation to award the purchase of non-commodity commercial food, paper goods, and cleaning supplies for the 2020-2021 school year.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved.”

Mr. Sokolovic moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the committee on October 22, 2020