

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #29 (2009-2010)

August 24, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR THE IT NETWORK
REFURBISHMENT PROJECT DELIVERY METHOD

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, barrier-free schools. Ensure public accountability through effective consultation with community to ensure wise use of financial resources and responsible construction and maintenance of facilities, and effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to utilize the design/build project delivery method for the Information Technology (IT) Network Refurbishment Project.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law in February of 2009. The Act provides additional funds for education through various entitlement funds and competitive grants. The district has worked to develop projects for stimulus funding that are most in line with board goals and interests and that are most likely to increase student achievement, build teacher capacity, and increase the graduation rate. One of the projects identified as meeting these goals is the IT Network Refurbishment Project.

The IT Network Refurbishment Project allows the district to complete efforts to install robust wireless systems throughout the schools and strengthen the district's network to meet the ever-increasing demand for connectivity. Education tools based on new technologies continue to grow within the school district. These tools use the local area network, the wide area network and the internet, increasing the need for a healthy infrastructure.

The Facilities Department has reviewed the delivery method alternatives available and has concluded that the design/build method would provide significant benefits to the IT Network Refurbishment Project. These benefits include:

- earlier project completions;
- cost and efficiency advantages due to a high volume of similar projects and an ability to design, procure materials and equipment, and build concurrently at multiple sites; and
- the repetitive nature of the projects will allow increased efficiency of design, increase labor productivity, volume discounts for materials and equipment, as well as consistent quality, testing and training.

Authorization to proceed with the design/build method will provide a high degree of confidence that the project will be completed on schedule and within budget while meeting the needs of the district and the district's IT department. The design/build delivery method will also assist the district in meeting obligations of ARRA which includes increasing the pace of school reform and the timely saving and creation of jobs.

School board policy 725.213 allows for the use of alternative acquisition techniques when in the best interest of the district. Specifically, paragraph 725.213.b. authorizes the use of the design/build method. In this method, the district develops design and budget criteria for the project. It then contracts with a single entity to provide complete design services and perform construction of the project.

A request for proposal process will be used to select the design/builder. Technical qualification criteria will include experience, staffing, project approach, management, scheduling, quality control and permitting. The cost portion of proposal will receive at least fifty-one percent of the combined evaluation points. The recommended design/builder will be presented to the school board for approval of the contract.

To assist in preliminary scoping of this project and the development of the design/build request for proposal, the district will enlist the aid of a design/build consultant. This consultant will work with the district's IT and facilities departments to fully develop the project scope and requirements.

Using the design/build delivery method will allow the contractor to have more time to deliver a completed project. Moreover, this method allows a more deliberate, sequential and non-accelerated process, while fully meeting district goals and ARRA requirements.

CC/MA/PC/JB/RA/MP/RB/EK/jg

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