



BIGFORK PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 38

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Home of the
VIKES
and
VALS

May 7, 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Rob Tracy, Jessica Martinz, Shawn DelMargo

Subject: Bus Purchase

I am requesting Board approval for the purchase of a new bus which will replace Bus 14. Bus 14 is a 2007 Blue Bird used on a route. This bus is overdue for replacement as it is 13 years old with 101,000 miles. In the past Transportation has turned buses at ten year intervals. We didn't purchase a bus last year as we are attempting to extend the useful life unless it has proved to be costly in repairs. In some cases it is and in other case it isn't. There is an additional incentive to purchase a bus now. Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is offering a grant in the amount of \$22,500 per bus as part of the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Settlement. They want to replace older diesel engines with more efficient diesel, propane or electric powered engines. The old bus will be scrapped as this is a requirement of the program. We will salvage any usable parts which we deem can be used on our existing Blue Bird fleet. I have solicited quotes from the Big Three school bus manufacturers and recommend we purchase a "Conventional" front engine Thomas Saf-T-Liner at a cost of \$115,022.00. This has a full front hood versus a stub nose. Mrs. Martinz, and I prefer front engine protection for our riders as it is much safer. Mr. Del Margo, our shop technician, believes the conventional front engine is much easier and less costly to work on too. The \$22,500 savings will be applied to the optional three point (\$10,000) seat belts which is included in these quotes. The balance of the grant will be used to retrofit one of our existing newer route buses which we can do in house over the summer. I estimate that conversion to be \$7,000.

The breakdown is as follows:

- International, Conventional Front Engine: \$117,000.00
- Grant from DEQ: (\$22,500.00)
- Net Purchase Price: **\$94,500.00**

- Thomas Built Saf-T-Liner, Conventional Front Engine: \$115,022.00
- Grant from DEQ: (\$22,500.00)
- Net Purchase Price: **\$92,522.00**

- Blue Bird BBCV, Conventional Front Engine: \$109,987.00
- Grant from DEQ: (\$22,500.00)
- Net Purchase Price: **\$87,487.00**