

FARGO BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMO #88– 2023-24

February 6, 2024

RE: Award of Bid – Elementary Classroom Libraries

FROM: Jackie Gapp, Business Manager
Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Superintendent

BOARD FOCUS: Action Required

Sealed bids were received on January 25, 2024 for Elementary Classroom Libraries.

Classroom libraries are sets of books provided to each classroom with the goal of engaging students in choice reading. The Elementary Classroom Library Project’s goal was to provide K-5 classrooms with high-interest engaging nonfiction titles that aligned with science, social studies, and STEM topics for their grade level. For many of our students, school is their primary place to access books, making it vital that they are surrounded by a variety of high-quality books to choose from.

Overall, student choice reading is important because it empowers students, fosters a love of reading, and supports the development of important reading skills. By giving students the freedom to choose what they read, educators can help create a positive and enriching reading environment that meets the diverse needs and interests of all learners.

The bid tabulation is as follows:

Vendor	Total Price	Total # of Copies	Notes
Children's Plus	\$79,855.43	11,735	Less balance between different topics for each grade; included multiple leveled readers not fit for purpose of this project
Carson Dellosa	\$39,587.03	5,480	Missing multiple topics in multiple grade levels
Custom Education Solutions	\$79,602.79	10,463	Balance between topics in all grade levels; included best options for high interest engaging reads; best overall diversity in the individuals represented throughout
Follett	\$78,724.71	10,902	Missing multiple key topics in one grade level; included some leveled books; did not have titles determined to be of high interest and engagement
Mackin	\$79,933.44	9,307	Most expensive with least number of books
Perma-Bound	\$35,695.82	5,480	Missing multiple topics in multiple grade levels

Following administrative review, it is recommended that Custom Education Solutions be awarded the bid in the amount of \$79,602.79, as they had low prices for the best overall classroom collections including the key topics for each grade level, the best high interest, engaging reads, and the best overall diversity.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the bid from Custom Education Solutions of \$79,602.79 for Elementary Classroom Libraries and issue purchase orders accordingly.