

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation to Reject All Proposals FY21-039 – Structured Cabling and Networking (E-rate)

Introduction

Responsible: Procurement & Warehousing Services (PWS)

This request is to approve the recommendation to reject all proposals submitted for Request for Proposals (RFP) FY21-039 – Structured Cabling and Networking (E-rate). This recommendation is presented in accordance with Section 6A-1.012(12)(c), Florida Administrative Code, and Part II, Section J of The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC), Purchasing Policy 3320 and Section 6.8.3.7 of the RFP which states that SBBC may reject all proposals received when there is sound documented business reasons that serve the best interest of SBBC.

Goods/Services Description

Responsible: Information Technology (IT)

This Bid is for the purchase of goods and services for SBBC network infrastructure, to be partially funded through the Federal E-rate program. Examples of products to be procured include networking equipment such as switches, routers, wireless access points, and structured cabling associated.

Procurement Method

Responsible: PWS & IT

The solicitation ran from May 15, 2020 through June 29, 2020. There were three hundred seventeen (317) vendors notified, forty-nine (49) vendors downloaded the RFP and seven (7) proposals were received before bid opening. All vendors who downloaded the solicitation but did not submit a bid were contacted and asked why they did not submit a bid; sixteen (16) responded, saying in general that they are either partnered with another firm submitting a proposal, they do not hold the required certification necessary to perform the work related to this Bid, there was not sufficient time to submit a proposal and/or they are insufficiently staffed due to COVID to perform the work.

During the negotiation phase of the sourcing process, it was revealed that it is in the best interest of SBBC to reject all proposals received in order to ensure compliance with the E-rate requirement that when a bid contains a mixture of both E-rate eligible and non-eligible products or services, they are scored separately with the E-rate eligible portion weighted heavier than non-eligible portion. The solicitation documents will be rewritten to separate E-rate eligible from non-eligible and weight accordingly to ensure that the District qualifies for the eighty (80) percent funding amount from the Universal Service Administrative Company. This will not delay the E-rate process.

Financial Impact

Responsible: PWS

There is no financial impact to the District.