

ATTACHMENT NO. IX-A: Purchase of Wheelchair Assessable Van and Bus

Potential motion: Move to approve the purchase of a 2010 Wheelchair Ramp Van and 2010 Wheelchair Bus and trade Bus #48 due to routing reconfiguration.

Recommended action: Approve the motion

This was previously submitted to the board on March 21, 2011 and was withdrawn as ARRA grant funding had not been approved at that time. Grant funding has been approved in the amount of \$58,900. This has been reviewed by the Business Services Committee on May 9, 2011 and was recommended to be forwarded to the Board for approval.

The District is entering the fifth year of providing direct services through district-hired staff to support students with special needs within the Pre-K to 12th grade structure. Special education teachers, related services staff, special education administration, and class paraprofessionals are available throughout the district to support student needs identified in IEPs. The district is also starting two new special education programs to support students with more severe needs.

Grant funds have been approved to support the district in providing community-based educational opportunities that will support transition planning needs for students with IEPs by purchasing a Wheelchair Ramp Van and also a Wheelchair Bus. The addition of these vehicles and the reconfiguration of routes will allow the expansion of current special education programming to include programming for life skills training and autism.

We request to purchase from Midwest Transit 1) 2010 Wheelchair Ramp Van (#K38280) with the capacity of 4 riders plus 1 wheelchair for \$30,000; 2) 2010 – IC Wheelchair school bus (#K37875) with the capacity of 12 riders plus 3 wheelchairs. Also with the reconfiguration of special education routing needs, Bus #48 would be traded for \$37,500.

The above purchases and trade will then allow the District to discontinue the current one-year leases for Bus #109 and #110 at the end of the 2010/2011 school year, resulting in a savings of \$23,776 in leasing costs for FY12. The current buses are no longer available to be leased as they have been sold by the vendor.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of a 2010 Wheelchair Ramp Van (\$30,000) and 2010 Wheelchair Bus (\$65,900) from Midwest Transit and the trade of Bus #48 to Midwest transit (\$37,500). Additional vendors, i.e., Wisconsin Bus Sales and Illinois Central were contacted but had no vehicles available to meet the above needs.