

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Attachment: Action

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PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date:

07.02.08

TO: Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Bob Golton and Cathy Mak, Interim Chief Business Officers

SUBJECT: Establishment of an Initial Pool of Architects for the Strong Schools Bond

The Strong Schools Bond election was held on June 3, 2008. The District wants to move forward on master planning for sites, but also wants to move to construction as quickly as possible. To this end, a first step is to identify high quality architects who can render their services to the District.

On May 8, 2008, the District sent out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Architectural Services to 43 firms. These firms were identified from the California Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) list of Bay Area firms. Newspaper advertisements seeking statements of qualifications were placed.

A non-mandatory tour of selected PAUSD campuses was held on May 19, 2008. A total of 22 individuals elected to participate in this walk-through.

The deadline for responding to the RFQ was May 29, 2008. A total of 28 firms responded to the RFQ.

A short list of 10 firms was created. This process used input from the District construction related staff, as well as the current Vice-Chair of CASH who is also a school district bond program manager.

The 10 firms were interviewed on June 16 and 17. The interview for each consisted of 30 minutes of presentation on questions sent to the firms, followed by 15 questions of follow-up questions. The 11 person interview panel consisted of the two Board members on the Property Committee, the Superintendent, four site administrators, three construction related staff, and a district consultant.

These interviews were very informative. The short-listed firms have a great deal of experience and expertise. After the interviews concluded, the group was asked to pick their top five firms. Four firms were unanimously selected and are recommended here for selection into the pool of architects.

AEDIS Architecture & Planning
Bunton Clifford Associates (BCA)
Deems Lewis McKinley Architects
Gelfand Partners Architects, Inc.

We are requesting that the Board approve these firms as a pool to be drawn from as projects are assigned. If the Board approves this pool, conversations will be held with the firms regarding the program as a whole. Then, the firms will be interviewed for various projects and fee/contract negotiations will take place. Of course, before any assignments are made, the assignments and contracts will be brought to the Board for review and approval.

It is entirely possible that staff will recommend additional architects for Bond services in the future. When and if this is needed, the architects will be presented to the Board for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of Education approve the following firms for design and architectural services related to the Strong Schools Bond: AEDIS Architecture & Planning, Bunton Clifford Associates (BCA), Deems Lewis McKinley Architects, and Gelfand Partners Architects, Inc.