

# **HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

## **District Bond Bidding FAQ's**

### **FAQ – Can local contractors and businesses be involved with the district's bond projects?**

The school district has realized for years that there are many outstanding companies who have both done great work in the area and been strong supporters of the district. We would be thrilled to have local companies work on our projects because we know there will be an extra sense of pride and ownership. We do want to recognize though, that there are many area firms who have Hamilton residents as employees. In fact, the architect and construction manager are both Holland firms with key Hamilton employees serving on these projects.

There are state laws and Board of Education policies which ensure that taxpayer money is handled appropriately. State law requires that bidders on major projects include a 5% bid security with their bids. Lakewood Construction, the Construction Manager, will be providing the overall performance, labor, materials (PLM) bond which allows for smaller subcontractors to be involved. However, all subcontractors will be required to meet financial qualification criteria. Since the bonds funding this project are state qualified or guaranteed, all workers on the project must be paid state "prevailing wages" which will be published in the bid documents. Sometimes, these requirements are problematic for smaller firms.

State law and Board of Education policy require the district to accept the bid of the lowest, responsible, qualified bidder. After bids are opened, a post-bid process is used to ensure that the bids are complete and the bidder is able to do the work based on experience, finances, and staffing.

### **FAQ – Where can I get bidding information and project specifications?**

Bidding information will be available at a variety of locations:

1. State law requires that bidding advertisement be accessible online for two weeks. The State link is: <http://www.michigan.gov/buymichiganfirst/0,1607,7-225--97969--,00.html>
- 2: An advertisement for bids will be published in the Holland Sentinel.
- 3: Many construction news services will have information for their subscribers. Those services include The Dodge Report, CNS, Builders' Exchange.
- 4: Lakewood Construction of Holland is the Construction Manager, 11253 James Street, 616-392-6923, [www.lakewoodinc.com](http://www.lakewoodinc.com). Interested bidders can contact either Bob MacFarlane, V.P. of Operations, at [bobm@lakewoodinc.com](mailto:bobm@lakewoodinc.com) or Marcel VanderLaan, Project Manager, at [mvanderlaan@lakewoodinc.com](mailto:mvanderlaan@lakewoodinc.com).

### **FAQ – Is there a place for the small firm or sole proprietor to get some of the work?**

Given the downturn in the construction industry, we know that companies are looking for excellent workers and excellent workers are looking for work. Lakewood Construction would be pleased to maintain a file of local subcontractors or suppliers who would like to work through a larger firm. Feel free to send information to Lakewood at the address above and be sure to mention your interest in the Hamilton projects.