

802 DISPOSITION OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to assist in timely disposition of obsolete equipment and material.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Effective use of school building space, and consideration for safety of personnel, will at times require disposal of obsolete equipment and material.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Contract” means an agreement entered into by the school district for the sale of supplies, materials, or equipment.
- B. “Official newspaper” is a regular issue of a qualified legal newspaper.
- C. “Obsolete property” means any District commodities, equipment, materials, or supplies that are obsolete, unused, not needed for a public purpose, or ineffective for current use.

IV. MANNER OF DISPOSITION

A. Authorization

The superintendent is authorized to dispose of obsolete equipment and materials by selling them at a fair price consistent with the procedures outlined in this policy. Any sale exceeding the minimum amount for which bids are required must first be specifically authorized by the school board. The superintendent is authorized to properly dispose of used books, materials, and equipment deemed to have little or no value.

B. Contracts Over \$175,000

1. If the value of the equipment or materials is estimated to exceed \$175,000, sealed bids must be solicited by two weeks’ published notice in the official newspaper. This notice must state the time and place of receiving bids and contain a brief description of the subject matter. Additional publication in the official newspaper or elsewhere may be made as the school board deems necessary.
2. The sale must be awarded to the highest responsible bidder, be duly executed in writing, and be otherwise conditioned as required by law.

3. A record must be kept of all bids, with names of bidders and amounts of bids, and an indication of the successful bid. A bid containing an alteration or erasure of any price contained in the bid which is used in determining the highest responsible bid must be rejected unless the alteration or erasure is corrected by being crossed out and the correction printed in ink or typewritten adjacent thereto and initialed in ink by the person signing the bid.
4. In the case of identical high bids from two or more bidders, the school board may, at its discretion, utilize negotiated procurement methods with the tied high bidders so long as the price paid does not go below the high tied bid price. In the case where only a single bid is received, the school board may, at its discretion, negotiate a mutually agreeable contract with the bidder so long as the price paid does not fall below the original bid. If no satisfactory bid is received, the board may re-advertise.
5. All bids obtained must be kept on file for a period of at least one year after their receipt. Every contract made without compliance with the foregoing provisions will be void.
6. Data submitted by a business to a school in response to a request for bids are private until opened. Once opened, the name of the bidder and the dollar amount specified become public; all other data are private until completion of the selection process, meaning the school has completed its evaluation and ranked the responses. After completion of the selection process, all data submitted by all bidders are public except trade secret data. If all responses are rejected prior to completion of the selection process, all data remain private, except the name of the bidder and the dollar amount specified which were made public at the bid opening for one year from the proposed opening date or until re-solicitation results in completion of the selection process or until a determination is made to abandon the sale, whichever occurs sooner, at which point the remaining data becomes public. Data created or maintained by the school district as part of the selection or evaluation process are protected as nonpublic data until completion of the selection or evaluation process. At that time, the data are public with the exception of trade secret data.

C. Contracts From \$25,000 to \$175,000

If the amount of the sale is estimated to exceed \$25,000 but not to exceed \$175,000, the contract may be made either upon sealed bids in the manner directed above or by direct negotiation, by obtaining two or more quotations for the purchase or sale when possible, and without advertising for bids or otherwise complying with the requirements of competitive bidding notice. All quotations obtained shall be kept on file for a period of at least one year after receipt.

D. Contracts \$25,000 or Less

If the amount of the sale is estimated to be \$25,000 or less, the contract may be made either upon quotation or in the open market, in the discretion of the school board. The sale in the open market may be by auction. If the contract is made on quotation, it shall be based, so far as practicable, on at least two quotations which shall be kept on file for a period of at least one year after receipt.

E. Electronic Sale of Surplus Supplies, Materials, and Equipment

Notwithstanding the other procedural requirements of this policy, the school district may contract to sell supplies, materials, and equipment which is surplus, obsolete, or unused through an electronic selling process in which purchasers compete to purchase the supplies, materials, or equipment at the highest purchase price in an open and interactive environment.

F. Notice of Quotation

Notice of procedures to receive quotations shall be given by publication or other means as appropriate to provide reasonable notice to the public.

G. Sales to Employees

No officer or employee of the school district may sell or procure for sale or possess or control for sale to any other officer or employee of the school district any property or materials owned by the school district unless the property and materials are not needed for public purposes and are sold to a school district employee after reasonable public notice, at a public auction or by sealed response, if the employee is not directly involved in the auction or sale process. Reasonable notice must include at least one week's published or posted notice. A school district employee may purchase no more than one motor vehicle from the school district at any one auction. This section shall not apply to the sale of property or materials acquired or produced by the school district for sale to the general public in the ordinary course of business. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an employee of the school district from selling or possessing for sale public property if the sale or possession for sale is in the ordinary course of business or the normal course of the employee's duties.

H. Donation of Surplus Property

1. By resolution, the School board may authorize the donation of obsolete property (not including real property) to an organization outside the school district, if the School Board concludes that the property has de minimis value or no value. When such a donation is made, the organization receiving the donated property must pay all costs associated with the donation of the obsolete property, including, but not limited to, any costs associated with loading or unloading the property, shipping the property, and storage of the property.

2. As a condition to receiving a donation of obsolete property, an organization must sign a written waiver that is substantially in the following form or such other form as is approved by the School Board's legal counsel:

I am an authorized representative of [ORGANIZATION NAME]. Independent School District No. 110 ("District") is donating the following obsolete property that it has determined has little or no value to the District: [DESCRIBE THE PROPERTY]. On behalf of [ORGANIZATION NAME], I acknowledge that the property is being donated "as is" and without any express or implied warranties, promises, or guarantees from the District. I also acknowledge that the District makes no representations as to whether the property is safe, fit, or appropriate for any general or specific use. On behalf of [ORGANIZATION NAME], I waive and release the District from any and all liability, including any claims for damages, arising out of or related to any future use of the donated property. [ORGANIZATION NAME] also agrees to defend and indemnify the District against any claim for damages, or any other form of liability, arising out of or related to any use of the donated property.

H. Exceptions for Surplus School Computers

1. A school district may bypass the requirements for competitive bidding and is not subject to any other laws relating to school district contracts if it is disposing of surplus school computer and related equipment, including a tablet device, by conveying the property and title to:
 - a. another school district;
 - b. the state department of corrections;
 - c. the board of trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities;
 - d. the family of a student residing in the district whose total family income meets the federal definition of poverty; or
 - e. a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is registered with the attorney general's office for educational use.
2. If surplus school computers are not disposed of as described in Paragraph 1., upon adoption of a written resolution of the school board, when updating or replacing school computers, including tablet devices, used primarily by students, the school district may sell or give used computers or tablets to qualifying students at the price specified in the written resolution. A student

is eligible to apply to the school board for a computer or tablet under this subdivision if the student is currently enrolled in the school and intends to enroll in the school in the year following the receipt of the computer or tablet. If more students apply for computers or tablets than are available, the school must first qualify students whose families are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and then dispose of the remaining computers or tablets by lottery.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 13.591 (Business Data)
Minn. Stat. §15.054 (Sale or Purchase of State Property; Penalty)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.29 (Sale at Auction)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.52 (Contracts)
Minn. Stat. § 471.345 (Uniform Municipal Contracting Law)
Minn. Stat. § 645.11 (Published Notice)

Cross References: MSBA School Law Bulletin “F” (School District Contract and Bidding Procedures)

Policy Adopted: September 2004, April 2007, May 2010, June 2018
Revised: August 2020 / January 2022, revised September 2023
Independent School District #110
Waconia, MN