

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Theresa S. Owens, CPA
Finance Director

Accounting and Financial Reporting

Carolyn T. Cuthrell
Deputy Director



Fiscal Accounting Services

Jeffrey J. Kantor, CPA
Division Manager

Budget

Greg Gillette
Division Chief

Central Purchasing

Jan Dudley, CPPO
Purchasing Agent

06/05/2024

Sherri D. Story
Chairman and Executive Director,
School Board Member Alliance of VA
1223 Ickleton Place
Forest, VA 24551
ssstory@mysbma.org

Ms. Story,

The Purchasing Agent for the County of York, VA has the duty to ensure that vendors (Bidders, Offerors, and organizations) with whom the County does business have “the capability, in all respects, to perform fully the contract requirements and the moral and business integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance” [County Ordinance 23-3, Section 1-9.23]. A vendor possessing those attributes is considered a “Responsible Bidder” or “Responsible Offeror”.

I have been made aware of recent interactions between the School Board Member Alliance and its officers (SBMA), and the County School Board of York County, VA and its officials (aka: York County School Division, or YCSD). The interactions, as I understand them, indicate that SBMA is not a responsible bidder. Specifically, in its interactions with YCSD, SBMA has demonstrated a lack of moral and business integrity. I conclude that SBMA is a nonresponsible organization.

In making this determination, I met with Melanie Berry, the York County School Division attorney, and Mrs. Kim Goodwin, the York County School Board chairperson, regarding a situation concerning her membership in the School Board Member Alliance (SBMA) as it relates to her position on the York County School Board and voting decisions. In speaking with Mrs. Goodwin, I was made aware of a conversation that was held between her and the leadership of the SBMA through a ZOOM meeting, advising her how she needed to vote in an upcoming Special Meeting related to the Direction of the Leadership of the York County School Board; and that all SBMA members needed to stick together and support Lynda Fairman. Mrs. Goodwin relayed to me that the SBMA told her if she did not vote the way that the SBMA wanted her to, and support Mrs. Fairman, that Mrs. Goodwin would no longer receive support from the SBMA. In order to continue receiving support from the SBMA, Mrs. Goodwin would need to have a “no” vote with regards to the unseating of the at-that-time chairperson, Mrs. Lynda Fairman. This ZOOM meeting was held a couple of days prior to the York County School Board Special Meeting which was held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

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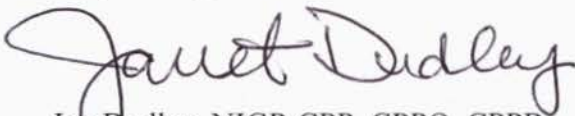
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A Hampton Roads Community

As a result of the discussion that occurred between myself, Mrs. Kim Goodwin, and Mrs. Melanie Berry, I have determined that the SBMA did not act with the moral and business integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance, and is therefore a nonresponsible organization. Due to the determination of nonresponsibility of the SBMA, the County of York, VA, nor the County School Board of York County, Virginia/York County School Division shall be allowed to contract with the SBMA. This letter is providing Notice of Non-Responsibility to the School Board Member Alliance (SBMA).

In accordance with the Purchasing Ordinance No. 23-3, the SBMA may, within ten (10) days of receiving this notice, appeal the decision in writing to the Purchasing Agent. The written appeal shall include the basis for the appeal; The Purchasing Agent shall consider all information available, and shall issue a decision in writing within ten days stating the reasons for the action taken. The Purchasing Agent's decision shall be final.

Respectfully,



Jan Dudley, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB
Purchasing Agent
County of York, VA

Cc: York County School Board
Victor D. Shandor, Ed. D, Division Superintendent
Bill Bowen, Chief Financial Officer
Melanie Berry, Esq., School Board Attorney
Mark J. Bellamy, County Administrator
Theresa Owens, County Finance Director
Richard Hill, County Attorney