

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE AUGUSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
October 15, 2012**

The Augusta Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 PM on Monday, October 15, 2012, in the Augusta High School Library. President Cleodis Smith presided over the meeting. Members present were Debbie Briscoe, Janice Collier, Leslie Collins, James Harston, Terry Shadwick and Robert Tripp. Scott Jones, Superintendent, was also present.

Scott Jones opened the meeting with a prayer.

On a motion by Leslie Collins and a second by Terry Shadwick the board approved the minutes of the September 24, 2012, regular meeting, as presented without reading.

Cleodis Smith welcomed the visitors.

Elsie Chestnutt, ACPEA Representative, addressed the board.

Patricia Perusich, PPC Representative, addressed the board. She noted the PPC had not a meeting with all members yet this school year.

Scott Jones discussed the finances and the progress with the clean up at the LCC.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Leslie Collins the board ratified payment of the bills.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Janice Collier the board approved the District participating in the TAPS Purchasing Program. (attached)

James Harston made a motion to place a school van at Cotton Plant Elementary. The motion was seconded by Robert Tripp. The vote was 2 for; 4 against; and 1 abstained.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by James Harston the board approved the building request by the OASIS organization to use the LCC from December 16th until December 22, for the Debutante and Gentleman Ball; and by LaToya Nevels to use the LCC on February 15, 2013, for a wedding reception; with the understanding if the building repairs are not complete other venues will have to be used.

On a motion by Debbie Briscoe and a second by Terry Shadwick the board approved the District ACSIP plan for the 2013SY.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Janice Collier the board approved the out of state trip request by the FFA to attend the National Conference.

On a motion by Terry Shadwick and a second by Janice Collier the board approved the out of state trips for the required personnel in connection with the TIF Grant and TAP program.

On a motion by Debbie Briscoe and a second by Janice Collier the board approved hiring the Save the Children personnel for the 2013SY as follows:
Tutors @\$12.50/hour – Angela Turner, Mildred Webb, Connie Akins, Dorothy Neal, and Waszell Watson;
NUPA @\$15.00/hour – Tabitha Taylor;
Parent Liaison @\$4,412.00/year – Annieta Mann;
Bookkeeper @ \$2,400.00/year – Ellyn Bengel

The board retired to executive session.

The board returned to open session.

On a motion by James Harston and a second by Robert Tripp the board hiring Laura Ladd as counselor for 15 days.

The regular November meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 12, 2012, 6:30 PM, at the high school.

On a motion by Debbie Briscoe and a second by Robert Tripp the board was adjourned.

Board President

ATTEST: _____
Superintendent

Board Secretary

Texas Arkansas Purchasing System (TAPS)

Region VIII Education Service Center
2230 North Edwards Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75456-1894

The Texas Arkansas Purchasing System (TAPS) is sponsored by the Region VIII Education Service Center, Dawson Education Cooperative, and the Arkansas Association of School Boards. The Region VIII ESC is located in Mount Pleasant, Texas and the Dawson Education Cooperative is located in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The Arkansas Association of School Boards is located in Little Rock, Arkansas. TAPS is available for use by all public and private schools, colleges, universities, cities, counties, and other government entities in the States of Texas and Arkansas.

Vendors certified by TAPS are granted contracts which have been competitively awarded in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and Arkansas and have agreed to provide the best pricing, terms and conditions available to similar customers.

Vendors and participating entities both benefit. If a vendor is successful in competing for a TAPS contract, the vendor may avoid the time and expense of participating in the competitive process for each individual participating entity. The participating entity may also avoid the time and expense of going through the competitive process.

The Purpose of TAPS is to:

- Provide school districts and other governmental entities opportunities for greater efficiency and economy in acquiring goods and services.
- Take advantage of state-of-the-art purchasing procedures to insure the most competitive contracts.
- Provide competitive price solicitation and bulk purchasing for multiple government entities that yields economic benefits unobtainable by individual entities,
- Provide quick and efficient delivery of goods and services by contracting with "high performance" vendors.
- Equalize purchasing power for smaller entities that are not able to obtain the best contracts for themselves because of size and quantities.
- Maintain credibility and confidence in business procedures by maintaining open competition for purchases and by complying with purchasing laws and ethical business practices.
- Assist entities in maintaining the essential controls for budget and accounting purposes.

TAPS does not charge any membership fees to participating entities. The total cost of the TAPS program is funded through a fee paid by the participating vendors that is based on actual sales. There are no tax dollars expended in support of the TAPS program.

Any sales made to participating entities without the participation fee may not qualify as competitive contracts issued by TAPS, therefore the participating entity must take competitive bids or proposals for these contracts as required by law.

For further information about the TAPS program and commodities available please call on the TAPS toll free number or visit the Texas Arkansas Purchasing System website at www.TAPS-arkansas.com.

Authorized by:
Region VIII Education Service Center, Dawson Education Cooperative
And the Arkansas Association of School Boards

Toll-free (866) 839-8477

Toll-free fax (866) 839-8472
arkansas.com

Website: www.TAPS-arkansas.com

Texas Arkansas Purchasing System (TAPS)

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQ's)

1. What is the Texas Arkansas Purchasing System (TAPS)?

Region VIII Education Service Center, Dawson Education Cooperative and the Arkansas Association of School Boards (TAPS) have executed a contract to provide cooperative purchasing opportunities to school districts and public entities in Texas and Arkansas. As a result of this contract, TAPS became the authorized agent to administer this purchasing program throughout the States of Texas and Arkansas on their behalf.

2. Why should I join and use the program?

The law encourages participation in cooperatives to eliminate duplication of efforts, thereby saving taxpayers' dollars. Region VIII ESC, the Dawson Cooperative are authorized under the laws of Texas and Arkansas to administer a purchasing cooperative for the benefit of it's members. This allows school districts and public entities to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Region VIII ESC and/or the Dawson Education Cooperative to participate in the program.

TAPS contracts are in complete compliance with all State of Texas and Arkansas statues, thereby eliminating the need for participating entities to do formal bidding or quoting. These contracts not only save taxpayers' dollars but they will also save member agencies time and resources expended in the procurement process.

TAPS complies with the Interlocal Cooperation Act (Chapter 791. Subchapter A and B and Article 61.65 of Vernon's Annotated Texas Civil Statutes). Under these laws, state agencies may legally contract for goods and services.

3. What are some of the advantages?

- a. All contracts are awarded on an annual basis. For the term of the contract entities may purchase goods and services from awarded vendors whenever the need arises.
- b. All contracts are annually renewable for up to a three-year period.
- c. Any disputes between vendor and an entity are resolved by TAPS. TAPS is always the advocate for their members.

4. Do all goods available through these contracts include freight charges?

Yes, all contracts are awarded FOB delivered unless otherwise noted.

5. Who is eligible to join the program?

Any state or local government agency mandated to follow Texas or Arkansas State law, federal agencies that do not have policies or regulations barring participation, or private and parochial schools, colleges, and universities are welcomed.

6. What do I have to do to become a member?

The governing body of the agency, subdivision, or taxing entity must approve a resolution to join and execute an Interlocal Agreement. This resolution and agreement is then forwarded to the Region VIII ESC in Texas or to the Dawson Education Cooperative in Arkansas.

Texas Arkansas Purchasing System

Commodity Contracts

Annual contracts for purchase of a variety of commodities are available through the Texas Arkansas Purchasing System. These contracts provide participating agencies with the means to purchase commodities under competitively established contracts in compliance with the bid laws of the State of Texas and Arkansas.

Typically, items purchased under these contracts are needed for immediate delivery. Suppliers for these contracts carry a broad line of commodities that are all made available under these contracts in order to maintain efficient procurement procedures.

TAPS is working with its vendors to provide as many electronic services as possible in an effort to streamline the acquisition process. Each vendor will have different capabilities. Participating agencies are encouraged to consider these capabilities as a means of reducing procurement costs.

Objectives of Competition:

- To improve efficiency in supplying commodities to participating agencies.
- To comply with Texas and Arkansas law, agency policies, and good business practice.
- To reduce costs of acquisition and possession of supplies.

Cost of Acquisition

Shopping Time
Paperwork time
Expediting
Mistake curing
Pricing

Cost of Possession

Storage space
Management time
Inventory control costs
Obsolescence
Shrinkage
Interest on capital investment

TAPS contracts cover many of the small-dollar, large-volume purchases made by purchasing departments. Each unit price in itself may not be the lowest price available but by having efficient accessibility and prompt delivery, the overall cost of acquisition and possession of these goods to the participating agency is reduced significantly. Experience with these kinds of contracts indicate that the number of vendors used and the quantity of purchase orders issued may be cut in half by participating agencies.

Primary and secondary vendors may be awarded on these contracts. The choice to use each vendor is left to the discretion of the participating agency.

TAPS services include:

- Assistance with making purchasing procedures more efficient for member agencies
- Assistance with extraordinary problems with ordering, expediting and invoicing.
- In-service for vendor's representatives doing business with participating agencies
- In-service for agency personnel doing business with the vendors under these contracts.
- Renewal or rebidding of contracts as required in time to allow for continuing efficient acquisitions.
- TAPS will always act as an advocate for member entities in all matters with contract holders to insure member satisfaction.

For additional information, please contact the TAPS office toll free at (866)839-8477 or visit the TAPS web page at www.TAPS-arkansas.com.

- 7. Is there any cost involved in becoming a member?**
No. All participation fees are paid by the vendors, which are based on invoiced sales.
- 8. How do I get pricing?**
a. Call or fax the TAPS office toll free at (866)839-8477 or fax toll free at (866)839-8472.
b. Visit the TAPS website at www.TAPS-arkansas.com where you will find links to all manufacturers who hold TAPS contracts.
- 9. Do vendors increase their prices to customers in order to pay the fee to TAPS?**
No. The fee paid by vendors is minimal when compared to the cost of responding to hundreds of bids from various entities. In almost all cases, prices are better than individual entities would be quoted on their own.
- 10. Are any tax dollars involved in funding this program?**
No. This program is totally self sustaining.
- 11. Are TAPS technology vendors CISV certified?**
Most of the technology vendors are CISV certified.
- 12. Will TAPS eliminate purchasing departments or purchasing personnel?**
No. There will always be a need for a strong local purchasing effort. TAPS should be used as a resource in conjunction with the local purchasing effort, thereby allowing the local purchasing department the time to work with pressing local issues and provide better service to the member agency..
- 13. Is this program trying to replace local regional cooperatives?**
No. The program is configured to enhance and support each region's individual purchasing effort to the benefit of participating entities.
- 14. How do vendors find out about TAPS Request for Proposal (RFP's)?**
a. Vendors may request, fill out and return a Prospective Vendor Application, indicating the commodity category for which the vendor would like to compete.
b. TAPS advertises all RFP opening in accordance with State of Texas and Arkansas bid laws. All RFP openings are held at the TAPS office and are open to the public.
- 15. What process does TAPS use to establish contracts?**
All contracts are awarded based on competitive, sealed proposals in response to written RFP's. Responses are opened publicly and evaluated by TAPS Evaluation Groups. Proposals are evaluated by the following criteria:
- Quality of product line
 - Quality of line items available that are used by participating entities
 - Customer Support
 - Suppliers demonstrated ability to perform
 - Pricing