



# District School Board of Pasco County

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Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent

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Department of Purchasing  
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July 18, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable School Board Members

FROM: Kendra Goodman, CPPB, Purchasing Agent

RE: SimplexGrinnell – Full Maintenance Coverage for Fire Alarm Systems  
Direct Negotiated Contract

The Purchasing Department was requested by Ray Gadd, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, and Gerry Brown, Director of Facilities and Maintenance Services, to research a full maintenance contract for the outsourcing of the District's fire alarm system inspections and routine repairs due to the volume of repairs and the District's growth. It was determined that SimplexGrinnell was the best company to meet our needs as the majority of our fire alarm systems are manufactured by SimplexGrinnell and we already have a "direct negotiated" master contract for new fire alarm system installations with SimplexGrinnell. The attached direct negotiated contract with SimplexGrinnell is for full maintenance service on all of our fire alarm systems throughout the District.

Under the Department of Education Rule 6A-1.012(10), a district school board, when acquiring "information technology resources" may make any acquisition through direct negotiation and contract with a vendor as best fits the needs of the school district. The term "information technology resources" as defined in State Statutes 282.0041(7) means "equipment, hardware, software, firmware, programs, systems, networks, infrastructure, media, and related material used to automatically, electronically, and wirelessly collect, receive, access, transmit, display, store, record, retrieve, analyze, evaluate, process, classify, manipulate, manage, assimilate, control, communicate, exchange, convert, converge, interface, switch or disseminate information of any kind or form." Given the fact that the fire alarm system mechanisms consist of:

- Devices that are similar to computer components – Central and front-end processors, data terminals, data storage units and miscellaneous peripherals equipment and;
- Whereby data is automatically and electronically transmitted, displayed, stored, analyzed and processed via interfacing with the District's existing networks; and

- Whereby the gathered data is communicated and disseminated to appropriate fire authority;

it appears that SimplexGrinnell fulfills the definition and intent of DOE's terminology for "information technology and therefore, would be exempt from the competitive bidding process.

After months of negotiations with SimplexGrinnell, a five-year contract, in conjunction with our current "direct negotiated" master contract was reached. This contract is renewable annually based upon mutual consent of both parties. The first year of the contract shall be effective from August 1, 2007 to July 30, 2008. The anticipated initial expenditures will be approximately \$370,325.97. Grand total of annual expenditures may vary with more or less use of the "unit prices." Unit prices are a firm fixed price for the first year of the contract with provisions to allow a maximum increase or decrease of 2% annually. The agreement has been reviewed and approved by The School District's Attorney, Nancy McClain Alfonso.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, or if I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

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Attachments