Muscogee County School District
Columbus, Georgia

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

ADDENDUM 1
RFP #21-008 Classrooms of Tomorrow – Interactive Learning & Meeting Centers
Audio Visual Equipment and Services

November 10, 2020

Dear Vendors,

The following questions were received by the Purchasing Department for RFP #21-008 Classrooms of Tomorrow – Interactive Learning & Meeting Centers Audio Visual Equipment and Services:

1. Will the in-room solution have a native ZOOM meeting interoperability, or will there be a bridging service for other meeting software solutions available (Webex, MS Teams, etc.)? Is ZOOM the meeting software of preference as the standard (as is the statewide standard solution)?
    Answer: Currently, the Muscogee County School District utilizes Zoom (primary) and Google Meet (secondary) for video conferencing, platforms for virtual/concurrent teaching, and/or meeting via computer. The ideal audio-video solution would be able to integrate seamlessly with any video conferencing platform.

2. Regarding staff training for operation of the installed solutions, would this formal training be performed onsite/in-person with staff (if so, how many expected sessions and locations), or would the training sessions be performed remotely via VCT due to COVID restrictions?
    Answer:
    - Onsite training for technical staff would be required unless there are government/district restrictions that would not make this a feasible option. If it is not a feasible option, then virtual training sessions would be considered.
    - The training of school staff would consist of developing an effective training plan for each school campus location. If feasible, the district's preference would be onsite training. However, if not feasible, then virtual training sessions would be considered.
    - There are approximately 55 district locations that would require training.

3. Regarding the on-premises Learning Center "prototype" setup of a solution system for pre-deployment testing and approval (page 10 of RFP document), which MCSD location would this prototype system be built and how far in advance of the full deployment would this be performed? See RFP paragraph below:
    "4. Before full installation begins, a prototype Learning Center will be assembled in a designated Learning Center/space and presented for final approval to the project manager. This room will represent the standard setup for the usage of components and hardware. Inspection of all wiring practices and installation will be evaluated by MCSD and must be approved before work on the balance of the rooms may commence. This will include functional, technical, and electrical evaluations."

Muscogee County School District
Columbus, Georgia

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

Answer:
- The district agreed upon "prototype" solution(s) will be installed at the Bradley Technology Center, 1120 Bradley Drive - Columbus, GA 31906 and/or at a school site chosen by the Division of Information Services team.
- The comprehensive project plan, to include a project timeline, would incorporate the full deployment schedule.

4. What are the requirements for the Learning Meeting Center? The only requirements listed are a 75"panel. What other requirements are there for this type of room?
Answer:
- Minimum specifications may include a 75"panel, video camera integration for video conferencing (Zoom, Google Meet, etc.), a microphone, and speakers. (An all in one unit, such as a sound-bar with video and microphone built-in is preferred).
- A minimum of two HDMI ports/cables made available for easy access.

5. What current software/hardware is being used for streaming, video conferencing and recording?
Answer: Currently, the Muscogee County School District utilizes Zoom (primary) and Google Meet (secondary) for video conferencing, platforms for virtual/concurrent teaching, and/or meeting via computer. The ideal audio-video solution would be able to integrate seamlessly with any video conferencing platform.

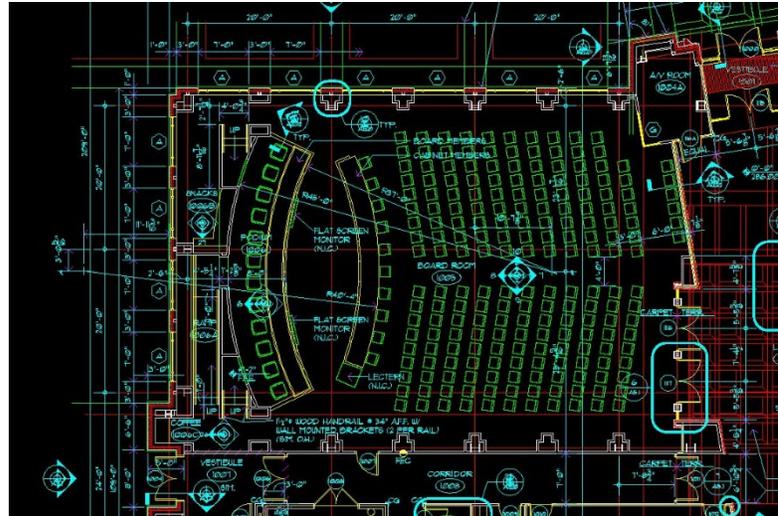6. Can more details be provided about the shape and size of the MCPEC Large Meeting Center?
Answer:
- A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held, via Zoom, on November 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. During this meeting, MCSD will provide a tour of the MCPEC Large Meeting Center.
- Approximately 3,447 square foot meeting center. (Approximately 60 ft. X 57 ft.)
    - Approximately 2,880 sq. ft. square shaped main meeting room.
    - Approximately 567 sq. ft. A/V technical room and storage room.

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

7. Will the vendor or MCSD facilities be responsible for patch and paint work from previously installed equipment?
   Answer: Currently, the MCSD Facilities and Operations Department will patch and paint as needed. Repairing, patching and/or painting due to damages occurred during de-installation and installation are the responsibilities of the vendor.

8. Would the district provide ceiling tiles for replacing previously installed projectors?
   Answer: No. The vendor will be responsible for replacing the ceiling tiles.

9. What is the anticipated start date?
   Answer: Pending on funding, Spring and/or Summer of 2021.

10. What is the planned roll out schedule? PO for individual rooms, or large orders/school by school?
    Answer: A purchase order will be issued per location. Each classroom and/or meeting room will be itemized on the quote.

11. What are the minimum specifications for the onboard PC?
    Answer: An onboard PC is not a preferred solution for MCSD. Minimum specifications may include an interactive panel, video camera integration to support all teaching models, a microphone, and speakers for the classroom. (An all in one unit, such as a sound-bar with video and microphone built-in is preferred).

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

12. Please clarify if the vendor or MCSD facilities will be responsible for any electrical work. If vendor, can electrical work be quoted on an as needed basis separately from the base installation price?
Answer: The MCSD will be responsible for all electrical work.

13. Will MCSD provide asset tags?
Answer: The MCSD will provide asset tag numbers. The vendor must print out the asset tag that goes directly on the panel. A comprehensive spreadsheet detailing site, room number, panel solution model, serial number, and asset tag will be required. The format must be pre-approved by the Division of Information Services.

14. Will reinforced audio (in ceiling speakers) be needed? Or will a video conferencing sound bar be sufficient?
Answer: Reinforced audio is preferred, but not required.

15. What cable connections are required? HDMI, VGA, etc.
Answer: HDMI only.

16. Is virtual or on-site training preferred?
Answer: On-site training is preferred.

17. What is the typical wall construction/material?
Answer: Cinder-block or sheetrock.

18. Can MCSD provide a staging area for large roll outs?
Answer: It may be possible that, depending on the location, the district may provide a staging area the day before an installation. However, this should not be the expectation.

19. A loose current classroom configuration is shown, but earlier it stated to design the classroom of tomorrow. Do you want this design to mimic the current designs or something completely different?
Answer: The basic classroom configuration shown was to provide basic guidance on how classrooms are configured today. The Classrooms of Tomorrow design will equip, enhance, and support traditional, concurrent, and online teaching models. Minimum specifications may include an interactive panel, video camera integration to support all teaching models, a microphone, and speakers for the classroom. (An all in one unit, such as a sound-bar with video and microphone built-in is preferred).

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

The qualified audio/video vendor shall propose a minimum of one, but no more than two alternative system design concepts that capture the state of national trends for K-12 education and their vision for innovative and engaging Classrooms of Tomorrow.

20. What unique needs to the users of this space need?
Answer: The Classrooms of Tomorrow design will equip, enhance, and support traditional, concurrent, and online teaching models. Minimum specifications may include an interactive panel, video camera integration to support all teaching models, a microphone, and speakers for the classroom. (An all in one unit, such as a sound-bar with video and microphone built-in is preferred).

21. What is the typical room size (conference rooms)?
Answer:
   - Large Meeting Center: Approximately 3,447 square foot meeting center. (Approximately 60 ft. X 57 ft.)
      o Approximately 2,880 sq. ft. square shaped main meeting room.
      o Approximately 567 sq. ft. A/V technical room and storage room.
   - Regular Learning Meeting Center (Muscogee County Public Education Center): Approximately 250 sq. Ft.

22. What is the desired room functionality (conference rooms)?
Answer: Meetings, video conferencing, trainings and team collaboration.

23. Has the district standardized on a video conferencing platform? Teams, Zoom, etc.?
Answer: Currently, the Muscogee County School District utilizes Zoom (primary) and Google Meet (secondary) for video conferencing, platforms for virtual/concurrent teaching, and/or meeting via computer. The ideal audio-video solution would be able to integrate seamlessly with any video conferencing platform.

24. Is a flat panel or projector preferred?
Answer: Panels are the preferred solution.

25. What streaming platform does MCSD use?
Answer: Zoom, Google Meet, Vimeo, YouTube, and Facebook Live.

26. What is the typical conference room equipment consist of?

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

Answer:
- Minimum specifications may include a 75"panel, video camera integration for video conferencing (Zoom, Google Meet, etc.), a microphone, and speakers. (An all in one unit, such as a sound-bar with video and microphone built-in is preferred).
- A minimum of two HDMI ports/cables made available for easy access.

27. What is the typical room layout (Conference Room)?
    Answer: Rectangular, roughly 200-250 sq. Ft.

28. Is this web conferencing (zoom, teams, etc.) or actual video conferencing (Cisco)?
    Answer: Web Conferencing.

29. What other AV needs are there for this room (Conference Room)?
    Answer:
    - Minimum specifications may include a 75"panel, video camera integration for video conferencing (Zoom, Google Meet, etc.), a microphone, and speakers. (An all in one unit, such as a sound-bar with video and microphone built-in is preferred).
    - A minimum of two HDMI ports/cables made available for easy access.
    - The qualified audio/video vendor shall propose a minimum of one but, no more than two alternative system design concepts.

30. What's the furniture in the room like? AV in tables?
    Answer: A table in the center of the room with 6-8 chairs around the table.

31. What size is the room (MCPEC Large Meeting Center)?
    Answer:
    - Approximately 3,447 square foot meeting center. (Approximately 60 ft. X 57 ft.)
    - Approximately 2,880 sq. ft. square shaped main meeting room.
    - Approximately 567 sq. ft. A/V technical room and storage room.
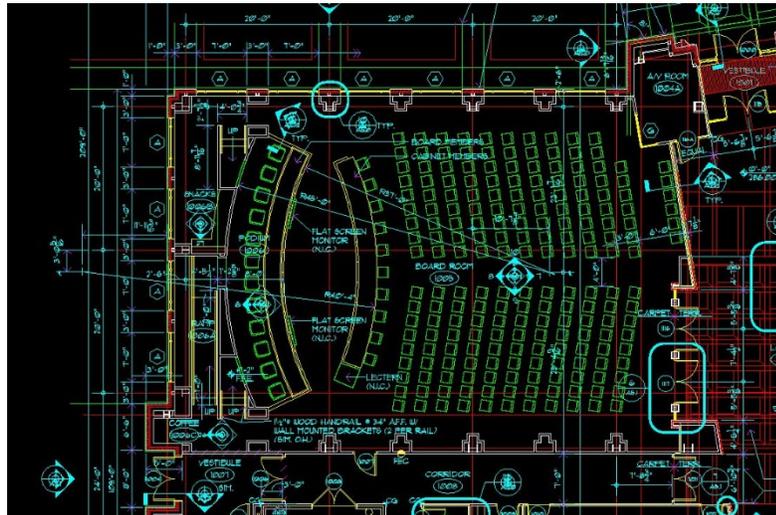
32. What is the furniture layout of the room (MCPEC Large Meeting Center)?
    Answer: A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held, via Zoom, on November 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. During this meeting, MCSD will provide a tour of the MCPEC Large Meeting Center. See picture below for more details:

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

33. Are the production items in a control room nearby (MCPEC Large Meeting Center)?
    Answer: Yes. They are located at the back of the room in the A/V control room. Please see picture provided.

34. A podium laptop connection is noted, what about other locations?
    Answer: For the panel, the display connection should be located in the podium.

35. Other sources needed for the video system?
    Answer: N/A

36. How far away is the school to the warehouse?
    Answer: The distances vary. However, the furthest site is approximately 14 miles. (Mathews Elementary).

37. Are there any unique cabling requirements (example, must use cat6A)?
    Answer: There are no unique cabling requirements.

38. Is AV equipment allowed on the client network?
    Answer: Yes. The Wi-Fi code will be provided for the panels to be added to the district's network.

39. Are we allowed to provide network switches for connecting AV systems?
    Answer: No. The vendors will not be allowed to provide network switches for connecting AV systems.

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

40. The RFP mentions an all-in-one conferencing solution, but, this has the potential to limit the teachers' movement throughout the classroom (since the camera can only track within a restricted range). Would Muscogee consider a ceiling mounted teacher-tracking PTZ camera as a system standard? The benefit of this solution is it would cover a much larger percentage of the room and with the proper optical zoom and pre-set settings, provide the teacher with both flexibility as well as ability to zoom in on important features (a chemistry lab table, text of a book on a stand, etc.)
Answer: The qualified audio/video vendor shall propose a minimum of one but, no more than two alternative system design concepts that captures the state of national trends for K-12 education and their vision for innovative and engaging Classrooms of Tomorrow.

41. Is the training needed per panel or total?
Answer: Training will be needed per location (training will be required after each install bundle is complete).

42. The RFP mentions 2 alternatives, can you clarify if this means 2 total or 3 total?
Answer: Two solutions that meet the district's minimum specifications. No more than two solutions must be submitted. At least one of the solutions must capture the state of national trends for K12 education and your vision for innovative and engaging Classrooms of Tomorrow.
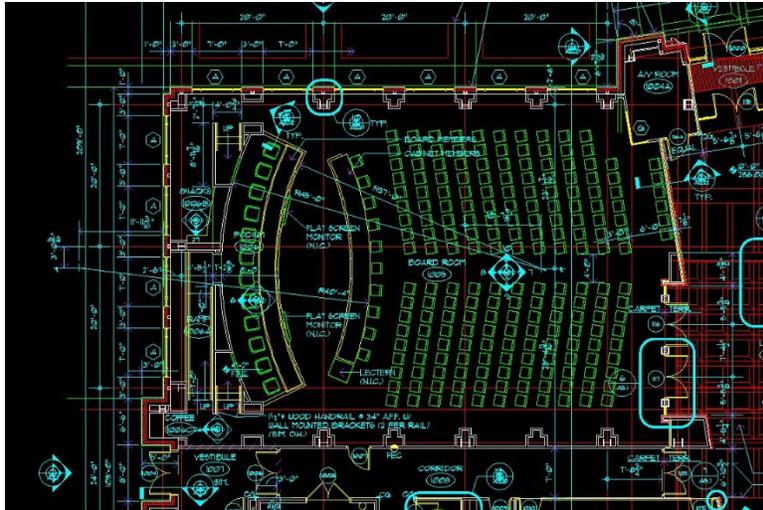
43. Are there any floor plans or other physical information for the Learning Meeting Center and the MCPEC Large Meeting Center? Providing a system design as part of the RFQ implies that some physical information about these spaces will be available.
Answer: Please see picture below.

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

44. What is the primary Video Conferencing Solution being used in the classroom, Zoom or Teams?
Answer: Currently, the Muscogee County School District utilizes Zoom (primary) and Google Meet (secondary) for video conferencing, platforms for virtual/concurrent teaching, and/or meeting via computer. The ideal audio-video solution would be able to integrate seamlessly with any video conferencing platform.

45. Any current applications for streaming virtual classrooms in place?
Answer: Currently, the Muscogee County School District utilizes Zoom (primary) and Google Meet (secondary) for video conferencing, platforms for virtual/concurrent teaching, and/or meeting via computer. The ideal audio-video solution would be able to integrate seamlessly with any video conferencing platform.

46. Are there any dual display rooms?
Answer: Less than five (5) district-wide.

47. What are requirements for small meeting areas in the school?
Answer: This is not a primary scope of this project.

48. Can photographs be provided of the classrooms of tomorrow Initiative / Standard Meeting Centers / MCPEC Large Meeting Center?
Answer: A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held, via Zoom, on November 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. During this meeting, MCSD will provide a tour of the MCPEC Large Meeting Center, Conference rooms, and Classrooms.

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

49. Are the walls concrete or sheet rock? What's expectation on repair on concrete or cinderblock walls?
Answer: Primarily sheet-rock and cinderblock walls. Currently, the MCSD Facilities and Operations Department will patch and paint as needed. Repairing, patching and/or painting due to damages occurred during de-installation and installation are the responsibilities of the vendor.

50. 1500 Classrooms. Is there only 1 MCPEC Large Meeting Center or is there a meeting center in each school location? (page 5)
Answer: There is only one large meeting center and it is located at MCPEC.

51. Where is the MCSD warehouse in relation to the schools?
Answer: Centrally located in the district. The furthest school location is approximately 14 miles away.

52. Electrical requirements. Can you verify that there is a quad outlet available on the wall behind every future board placement?
Answer: Some locations will need these added. MCSD Plant Services will be notified at the time of the walk-thru to schedule the additional power outlets.

53. When projectors are pulled, will MCSD provide a fresh ceiling tile or will it be ok to leave the existing with a pole hole in it?
Answer: No. The vendor will be responsible for replacing the ceiling tiles.

54. Most collaborative displays require a PC to run OS and software to function. Is proposer expected to provide a PC to run the board, or will the teacher's use their own device (PC) to drive the collaborative screen & applicable software?
Answer: If the solution is unable to act as an interactive whiteboard without a computer attached, then yes, an on-board device that enables the display to be interactive is required. If required, the vendor is responsible for providing Windows Licensing and on-board PC imaging that meets MCSD specifications. However, this is not the district's preferred solution. Every teacher is provided a school district laptop.

55. Is an onboard PC required for IFP? Only mention of an onboard pc was on the top of page 8 and not in the spec. If so, will MCSD be provide Windows License or will the Vendor? If so, will MCSD or Vendor be responsible for imaging the on-board PC?
Answer: If the solution is unable to act as an interactive whiteboard without a computer attached, then yes, an on-board device that enables the display to be interactive is required. If required, the vendor is responsible for providing Windows Licensing and on-board PC imaging that meets MCSD

Aileen Arrighi
Senior Buyer

specifications. However, this is not the district's preferred solution. Every teacher is provided a school district laptop.

56. What is the current Learning Management System for Muscogee County Schools?
    Answer: The current learning management system for MCSD is Canvas.

57. Page 11 #8 can you give examples of peripheral devices?
    Answer: Any additional equipment that is necessary for the installation. A peripheral device is generally defined as any auxiliary device such as speakers, microphones, cameras, and/or keyboard that connects to and works with the interactive panel in some way.

58. Page 11 section E) Provide finish work (i.e. fill mounting holes, prep and paint as needed) and reinstall or replace damaged ceiling tiles leaving a clean and professional removal. Will MCSD be provide paint? Or will vendor be responsible for matching and providing paint? Will vendor be painting just pathed area or whole wall?
    Answer:
    - Currently, The MCSD Facilities and Operations Department will patch and paint as needed. Repairing, patching and/or painting due to damages occurred during de-installation and installation are the responsibilities of the vendor.
    - Ceiling tiles will not be provided by MCSD. The vendor will be responsible for replacing the ceiling tiles.

59. Are there existing boards glued to the walls?
    Answer: Yes.

60. Can surplus material being removed be re-used (ex – can removed cabling be re-used)?
    Answer: No.

61. What is the estimated construction budget.
    Answer: The estimated construction budget is $9,000,000.