



To: Dr. Mike Riggle
Board of Education

From: Dr. R.J. Gravel
Dr. Kim Ptak

Date: Monday, February 25, 2019

Re: Approval to Donate Surplus Furniture

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve District administration to work with IRN: The Reuse Network (IRN) to donate approximately 900 surplus tablet arm desks to a charitable organization supporting schools in need.

Update

At the February, 11, 2019 board meeting, a board member recommended contacting Kids in Need of Desks (K.I.N.D.) The K.I.N.D. campaign was launched by the UNICEF USA and MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell and aims to deliver desks to hundreds of schools throughout Africa where it is estimated that 70% of students do not have a desk or chair. I contacted the organization and they do not accept physical goods directly from the United States due to the associated shipping cost. Their main warehouse is located in Copenhagen, Denmark where the majority of materials are donated, stored and shipped. UNICEF is one of the organizations IRN works with to coordinate and ship donations of this nature.

Background

At the October 22, 2018 board meeting the Board of Education approved a furniture purchase for 32 classrooms (16 at GBN and 16 at GBS) as part of the Learning Space Initiative. The new furniture is expected to arrive and be installed over Spring Break. (The majority of these classrooms have varying styles of tablet arm desks.) It is estimated the District will have 900 surplus tablet arm desks once the new furniture arrives.



According to Board Policy 5060: Disposal of Surplus Assets, surplus equipment in the District will be disposed of according to the following priorities:

Priority	Steps Taken by District and Building Administration
A. Use in Another Department	Not applicable in this situation
B. Used for Parts	Not applicable in this situation
C. Trade-in or Dealer Sale	New furniture vendor and manufacturer did not have an interest or need to offer trade-in value on existing furniture
D. Public Auction	Classroom sets were posted on ebay, Craigslist, Alibaba, Public Surplus, the Public Group - no interest was received. New desks of this type sell at list price for \$112.
E. Sale via Request for Bid	Contacted several schools and school districts to inquire about a sale or donation of classroom sets - no interest was received. Talked to several schools in area with recent surplus classroom furniture to understand their success with sales - all donated or recycled.
E. Donation	Contacted several organizations (Discover, UNICEF, Habitat for Humanities, Green Standards, Zoot, Repurpose/Reimagine; IRN is the recommendation based on timeline, cost, and logistics.
F. Junk	n/a

Who is IRN and How Does the Process Work?

IRN works with schools, universities, corporations and large organizations with surplus furniture and matches them to an organization in its network of over 100 nonprofits and charities. In addition to matching the organizations, IRN organizes the labor and logistics to move, load and ship the surplus to the entity in need.

In our case, IRN would reach out to 6-12 disaster relief organizations in need of K-12 classroom furniture; the location may be in areas such as Afghanistan, The Ukraine, Haiti, Zambia.) The furniture would be packed in five shipping containers and sent to the final destination. The shipping process can take 3-5

months depending on the final destination. IRN delivers a post-project conclusion document, or case study, giving an overview of the project, the surplus pieces, where the items were delivered, the cost and overall environmental impact.

The district is responsible for loading the containers as well as paying the shipping cost which is \$10,500. To recycle and/or dispose of the items would cost the district approximately \$5,000.