

**THREE RIVERS CHARTER SCHOOL
PROCUREMENT POLICY AND CONTRACT BIDDING POLICY**

I. General

It is the policy of the Board of Directors (“Board”) for Three Rivers Charter School (“Charter School”) to procure goods and services in a manner consistent with the guidelines set forth herein. This includes, consistent with the procedures set forth herein, documentation of a good faith effort to secure the lowest possible expected cost for comparable goods or services using sealed bids for construction and building renovation projects. The Charter School’s practices have been designed to give fair and equitable treatment to all persons who deal with the Charter School’s procurement system, to provide maximum economy in procurement activities, and to foster competition within the free enterprise system.

The policies and procedures presented herein are consistent with current applicable state and federal law. As necessary, the Charter School’s Board of Directors will revise this document as the relevant laws may change from time to time, or to ensure compliance of this policy with the Charter School’s charter petition with Fort Bragg Unified School District.

II. Procurement Defined

Procurement for the purposes of this policy is defined as buying, purchasing, renting, leasing, or otherwise acquiring goods, services, or construction for the Charter School. It also includes all functions that pertain to the obtaining of any good, service, or construction for the Charter School, including complying with bidding procedures as described herein, as well as administering agreements for goods, services, or construction once established.

Procurement does not include expenditures that typically would not be reviewed by any system of hierarchy for approval, such as using a petty cash fund to purchase lunch for a group of teachers at a professional development seminar.

III. Procurement Policy

Any procurement of goods, services, or construction shall be made upon considering the totality of the circumstances surrounding the procurement, including but not be limited to price, quality, availability, timelines, reputation, and prior dealings.

No work, project, service, or purchase shall be split or separated into smaller work orders or projects for the purpose of evading the requirements of this policy.

IV. Professional Services Contracts

The Charter School may hire such professional services as are needed for the operation of the Charter School on a sole source basis without complying with the bidding procedures described in Sections VI and VII herein. Such professional services include, but are not limited to, the following professionals: accountants, administrative professionals, architects, attorneys, construction managers, engineers, and financial advisors.

In selecting professionals for engagement, the Charter School may consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to experience, education, expertise, reputation, and cost. The selection of professionals providing these services shall be within the sole discretion of the Board. A request for qualifications process can be used if desired.

V. Guidelines for Selecting Contractors/Vendors

A. Avoiding Waste and Reducing Costs

The Charter School will avoid purchasing unnecessary or duplicative items, and will purchase surplus government property in lieu of purchasing new equipment when appropriate. The Charter School will conduct appropriate oversight of vendors, ensuring that vendors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. The charter school will participate in state and local intergovernmental agreements or inter-entity agreements for procurement of goods and services, such as statewide contracts administered by the Department of General Services.

B. Prequalification Procedures

The Charter School may, but is not required to, establish prequalification procedures for any contract for which bids are required.

C. Unlicensed, Suspended and Debarred Contractors/Subcontractors

The Charter School may not consider any contractor or subcontractor that does not possess a license in good standing, or is listed as debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from bidding on, accepting, or performing any public works contracts, by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (“DLSE”) of the California Department of Industrial Relations (“DIR”).

The Charter School is required to vet any potential contractor or subcontractor for suspension or debarment before a contract may be awarded. A list of suspended and debarred contractors and subcontractors may be accessed through the DLSE Debarments Web Site at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/debar.html>.

VI. Informal Bidding and Contract Approval – Contracts up to \$150,000

All purchases of more than \$50,000 but less than \$150,000 must include documentation of a good faith effort to secure the lowest possible cost for comparable goods or services of similar value. The Executive Director or designee shall not approve invoices, purchase orders, or check requests lacking such documentation. Documentation shall be attached to all invoices, purchase orders, and check requests indicating that at least three (3) contractors/vendors were contacted, and such documentation shall be maintained for three (3) years. Informal quotes or proposals for goods and/or services may be requested and received in writing by mail, email, facsimile, and/or verbally, such as by telephone, as long as properly documented.

Before releasing a bid solicitation, the Executive Director or designee will adopt a written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting recipients. Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the school, with price and other factors considered.

The Charter School may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation (i.e., request for qualifications).

Contracts for purchases of up to \$5000.00 may be executed by the Executive Director without prior Board approval.

VII. Formal Bidding and Contract Approval – Contracts Over \$150,000

Contracts for the purchase of more than \$150,000 worth of equipment, materials or supplies to be furnished, sold, or leased to the Charter School, or contracts for more than \$150,000 worth of services or construction (excluding those professional services agreements described in Section V), shall be subject to the formal bidding requirements set forth hereinbelow. Use of formal bidding presumes that the following three factors are present (i) a complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available; (ii) two or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and (iii) the procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price is not required. When any one or more of these three factors is not present, the Charter School may find that formal bidding is not feasible and may use informal bidding (above) or noncompetitive proposal(s).

If formal bidding is required, the Charter School shall utilize the following procedures:

A. Seeking Bids

The Charter School shall seek bids from those sources able to offer the best prices, consistent with quality, quantity, delivery, and service. To ensure that good value is received for funds expended, the request for bids shall be carefully designed to clearly

and completely describe in detail the quality, delivery, and service required, and shall include the criteria that will be used to evaluate the offers and the relative weights given to the criteria. Further, the request for bids shall specify the date by which all bids must be received by the Charter School. Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids.

The request for bids must include a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the request, which defines the items or services with enough specificity to allow bidders to properly respond. These details can be provided in specifications and attachments included with the bid invitation. The bid request shall identify all requirements which the bidders must fulfill and all factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals. Notice of the request for bids may be provided in one or more of the following ways:

- (1) Publishing the request for bids in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of Mendocino County, once a week for at least two (2) weeks before the deadline for receiving bids;
- (2) Posting the request for bids on the Charter School's website or other electronic portal for at least two (2) weeks before the deadline for receiving bids; and/or
- (3) Directly submitting notice of the request for bids to an adequate number of qualified sources to permit reasonable competition consistent with the nature and purpose of this policy. Any list of potential contractors/vendors that is generated must be current and include enough qualified sources to ensure reasonable open and free competition.

B. Opening Bids

Bids may be opened only at the time and place prescribed by the Executive Director or designee. A bid that has been opened may not be changed for the purpose of correcting an error in the bid price. However, bidders retain the right to withdraw a bid due to a material mistake in the bid. After bids have been opened, they shall be available for inspection or copy by any interested party. The Charter School must maintain the bid document(s) for the duration of the contract and for three (3) years beyond the completion of the contract.

C. Contract Award

The Board, or any employee of the Charter School to whom responsibility has been delegated, shall award a competitively-bid contract at the bid amount to the bidder offering the best value to the Charter School according to its selection criteria. The contract need not necessarily be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such

discounts are usually taken advantage of. The selection criteria may include the following factors:

- (1) Purchase price;
- (2) Reputation of the contractor/vendor and of the contractor's/vendor's goods and/or services;
- (3) Quality of the contractor's/vendor's goods and/or services;
- (4) Extent to which the goods and/or services meet the Charter School's needs;
- (5) Contractor's/vendor's record of past performance;
- (6) Contractor's/vendor's financial standing and capacity;
- (7) Contractor's/vendor's past relationship with the Charter School; and
- (8) Total long-term cost to the Charter School to acquire the goods and/or services.

Contracts over \$5000.00 must be approved by the Board prior to execution by the Board Chair or Executive Director.

Any and all bids may be rejected if there is a sound, documented reason for doing so.

D. Protest by Bidders

A bidder may protest a bid award if he/she believes that the award was inconsistent with this policy, the bid's specifications, or was not in compliance with law.

A protest must be filed in writing with the Executive Director or designee within five (5) business days after receipt of notification of the contract award. The bidder shall submit all documents supporting or justifying the protest. A bidder's failure to file the protest documents in a timely manner shall constitute a waiver of his/her right to protest the award of the contract.

The Executive Director or designee shall review the documents submitted with the bidder's claims and render a decision in writing within thirty (30) business days. The Executive Director or designee may also convene a meeting with the bidder to attempt to resolve the problem.

The bidder may appeal the Executive Director or designee's decision to the Board. The Executive Director or designee shall provide reasonable notice to the bidder of the time for Board consideration of the contract award. The Board's decision shall be final.

VIII. Noncompetitive Proposals

A noncompetitive procurement proposal is the solicitation of a proposal from only one (1) source. Noncompetitive procurement proposals may only be used when one or more of the following circumstances apply: (i) the item is available only from a single source; (ii) the public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation; or (iii) after solicitation of a number of sources,

competition is determined inadequate. When procuring goods or services using Federal funds, if none of these circumstances are present, written authorization from the Federal awarding agency or CDE must be granted.

IX. Construction Contracts

Procurement of construction and/or construction related services (other than those services which constitute professional services as described above in Section IV) must be made in accordance with the bidding procedures described herein. **Mandatory Contract Terms**

All contracts entered into with the Charter School must contain the following terms when applicable:

- (1) A ceiling price that the contractor/vendor exceeds at its own risk.
- (2) Retention of all required records by the contractor/vendor for three (3) years after the Charter School makes final payments and all other pending matters are closed.
- (3) Access by the Charter School or any of their duly authorized representatives to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to that specific contract for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts, and transcriptions.
- (4) Administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors/vendors violate or breach contract terms, and the sanctions and penalties that are appropriate.
- (5) Termination for cause and for convenience by the Charter School, including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement.

X. Maintenance of Records

The Charter School shall document specific actions for any procurement. These specific actions include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The rationale for the method of procurement.
- (2) The selection of contract type.
- (3) The selection or rejection of a contractor/vendor, and supporting rationale.
- (4) The basis for a contract price.

Documentation of each of these actions shall be prepared as the actions occur within any given instance of procurement.

Procurement records, accepted bid documents, and selected contracts will be retained by the Charter School for not less than three (3) years.

XI. Conflict of Interest

No Board member or Charter School employee shall be financially interested in any contract made by the Board or in any contract made in their capacity as a Board member or Charter School employee.

No Board member or Charter School employee shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract if a real or apparent conflict of interest would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when the Board member or Charter School employee, or any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ the Board member or Charter School employee, has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for an award. The Board member or Charter School employee shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, or parties to sub-agreements.

To the extent permitted by law, any Board member or Charter School employee who violates this section may be subject to penalties, sanctions, and other disciplinary actions.

XII. Reservation

The Charter School Procurement and Contract Bidding Policy shall be amended and updated if necessary to comply with changes in acceptable procurement practices.

XIII. Federal Grants or Programs

In addition to complying with all conditions herein, all contracts involving federal grants or other federal programs shall also fully comply with all applicable federal procurement guidelines related to such programs and the Uniform Guidance of the Office of Management and Budget (2 CFR §§ 200.218-200.226). In the event there is a conflict between this policy and the applicable federal procurement guidelines, the federal guidelines shall prevail.

Adopted: April 19, 2022

I, Jaime Ries, am the Secretary of the Three Rivers Charter School Board of Directors. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly and legally adopted by the Board of Directors on this 19th day of April , 2022, and that this resolution has not been revoked.

Date: _____
