

Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX

From: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 11:09 AM
To: Palmer, Joel EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: MEDIA REQUEST - Roofing contracts

Talked to Seamus. The TC has already been talking to them. They were asking for data on costs for roofing across the province, which I don't think we have. So heads up that they may ask us for that info.

Heather

From: Palmer, Joel EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 10:41 AM
To: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Roofing contracts

Heather

Have you heard back from Jim and/or Seamus? Maybe you could give me a call when you're free.
Joel

Joel Palmer 250-216-4627

From: Kukucha, Karen A EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX; Palmer, Joel EDUC:EX
Cc: Stewart, Doug I EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: MEDIA REQUEST - Roofing contracts
Importance: High

Oh oh Victoria SD's roofing issue is now in the media....

Joel, fyi, Heather dealt with this issue when we received a written complaint about how Victoria procures it roofing work.

Heather responded and spoke to GVSD staff about it ... email trail is attached.
Now we have received the media enquiry below.

Over to you ...

K

From: Silver, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 10:20 AM
To: Kukucha, Karen A EDUC:EX
Subject: MEDIA REQUEST - Roofing contracts
Importance: High

Hi Karen, can we please loop in Doug and Heather on this one.
The reporter has a deadline for end of day today. We would like to discuss asap.

Thanks,

Matt

From: Kines, Lindsay (Times-Colonist) [<mailto:LKines@timescolonist.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Sutherland, Scott GCPE:EX
Subject: Roofing contracts

Hi Scott:

Sorry, previous note had the wrong subject line.

Rob Shaw and I are working on a story about roofing projects in the Greater Victoria School District (SD61). Specifically, we've heard complaints that the district's request for proposals specify the use of one particular product, Tremco, that is alleged to be more expensive than other products.

We are told that the premier's office has received the complaints as well, and that they have been forwarded to Heather Hill, acting director of the education ministry's capital management branch, and that the branch is investigating the concerns.

I'm wondering if we can speak to Heather Hill or if you can provide information on the steps the ministry is taking?

Do districts set their own bidding policies?

How much oversight does the ministry provide and is it within the rules to specify the use of only one particular product in a request for proposals? Does the ministry have any concerns with the way the SD61 contracts are written and whether it poses a risk to taxpayers?

Also, does the ministry keep track of capital project contracts awarded by districts across the province? How is that information recorded/tracked?

Best regards,

Lindsay Kines | Reporter
Times Colonist
Phone: 250-380-5272
Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/lindsaykines>
Website: <http://www.timescolonist.com>

Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX

From: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 10:43 AM
To: Palmer, Joel EDUC:EX
Subject: Fw: SD#61 - Re-Roofing - Various Schools - Tremco Spec

From Diana

From: Lucas, Diana V EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 03:08 PM
To: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Subject: SD#61 - Re-Roofing - Various Schools - Tremco Spec

Hi Heather: I reviewed Invitation to Tender #13-008 Re-Roofing - Various Schools (ITT) on BCBid.ca. They allow product equivalents in most cases in the reroofing specs, for example:

Insulation – 1.5" Polyisocyanurate by Atlas, or equal, and Polystyrene PlastiSpan as manufactured by Plastifab, Mansonville, or equal.

Vapour retarder - Permstop by Owens Corning, or equal,

Caulking - Tremco GP or approved equal.

And, how equivalents are handled is properly stated in the Conditions of Tender (excerpt below).

For felts and stripping plies, only Tremco Composites is spec'd. No equivalent allowed. All the SD needs to do is put "or equal" behind it.

Perhaps SD#61's roofing consultant, Ladick & Associates of Abbotsford, has a reason for no substitution? It needs to be based on reasonable product performance data, not closed to just product name or manufacturer, as per the trade treaties (which call for open specs or equivalencies). Hope this helps,

Diana Lucas

Manager, Contract and Procurement Services
Financial Services Branch
Ministry of Education
Phone Number: (250) 356-7685 Fax: (250) 953-4985

SD#61 ITT Excerpt:

Instruction to Bidders (page 2):

Section 3.1 Materials

.1 Tenders shall be based on the use of materials specified in the Drawings and Specifications.

.2 Equivalent alternatives to materials specified will be considered during the tendering period only if full descriptive data on proposed alternatives is submitted in writing to the Consultant at least 5 (Five) Working Days before the Tender closing date contained in the advertised Invitation to Tender.

.3 Approved alternatives will be incorporated in the Drawings and Specifications by issuance of an Addendum.

.4 The Alternative Prices listed in the Contract Documents shall remain open for acceptance by the Owner for the period stated in the Contract Documents, from the time and date specified for closing of Tenders, notwithstanding the award of the Contract.

Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX

From: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 10:42 AM
To: Palmer, Joel EDUC:EX
Subject: Fw: SD#61 - Re-Roofing - Various Schools - Tremco Spec

Here is the email I sent to the SD and their response.

From: Howley, Seamus [<mailto:SHowley@sd61.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, June 07, 2013 08:28 AM
To: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX; Soles, Jim <jsoles@sd61.bc.ca>
Cc: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX; Kukucha, Karen A EDUC:EX; Kane, Kathleen EDUC:EX; Walker, Ross <rcwalker@sd61.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: SD#61 - Re-Roofing - Various Schools - Tremco Spec

Hi Heather, so noted.

For your information this system has given us 25 years of trouble free roofs with a further 20 years gained by re-saturating at a reduced cost. Good value for the scarce AFG dollars invested.

Thanks.

Seamus Howley

Director of Facilities | Greater Victoria School District #61 | 491 Cecelia Road, Victoria, BC V8T 4T4 | email: SHowley@sd61.bc.ca | Phone: 250 920-3401 | Fax: 250 920-3461 | BlackBerry: s.17

From: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX [<mailto:Heather.Hill@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2013 10:15 AM
To: Soles, Jim; Howley, Seamus
Cc: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX; Kukucha, Karen A EDUC:EX; Kane, Kathleen EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: SD#61 - Re-Roofing - Various Schools - Tremco Spec

Hi Jim and Seamus,

In light of the queries we received from an individual I had Diana Lucas, our procurement expert, review one of your re-roofing tenders. It was Tender #13-008 Re-Roofing at various schools. She noted that for felts and stripping plies only Tremco Composites is specified. This is contrary to trade treaties and in the future should be modified to include "or approved equal" or "or equal". This would allow proponents to propose the use of other products that would provide equal or better performance. The other option is to specify product performance instead of specific product names.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss further.

Heather Hill
A/Director, Capital Management Branch
Ministry of Education
250-886-5935

Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX

From: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 10:30 AM
To: Kukucha, Karen A EDUC:EX
Subject: School District #61 - roofing procurement process issue

From: s.22
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2013 6:11 AM
To: Education Funding Department EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

s.22

From: Education Funding Department EDUC:EX [<mailto:Education.FundingDepartment@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 4:34 PM
To: s.22
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

To: s.22

Thank you for the additional information you included in your most recent emails. I have contacted officials in the Greater Victoria School District to inquire about your concerns, and District staff assured me they will be looking into this matter. In the meantime, Ministry staff will work with the School District to review procurement policies.

Thank you again for bringing this issue to our attention.

Heather Hill, A/Director
Capital Management Branch
BC Ministry of Education

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 2:48 PM
To: Education Funding Department EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

Thanks for your reply – any efforts in the past with the school board have been a complete waste of time. I you bothered to google “Tremco Roofing Scams”, you would understand why. Sincerely, s.22

From: Education Funding Department EDUC:EX [<mailto:Education.FundingDepartment@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 2:28 PM
To: s.22
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

Ref: 167607

To: s.22

Your recent email to the Premier's Office has been forwarded to me for response.

In accordance with the *School Act*, the Ministry of Education sets education standards and provides funding for BC's educational system, while local boards of education are responsible for making decisions regarding the operation and maintenance of schools. Each board of education is a separate, legal entity that is responsible for its budgetary decisions, including the management of facilities within each school district. In addition to its operating budget, each board receives an Annual Facility Grant to be used to upgrade or replace existing building components, such as roofing.

As roofing repairs and replacements for School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) are the responsibility of the Board of Education, I encourage you to share your views directly with the Board. The Greater Victoria School District's website indicates the board may be contacted via: <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/board.aspx> / email: Trustees@sd61.bc.ca

Thank you for writing to express your concerns on this matter.

Heather Hill, A/Director
Capital Management Branch
BC Ministry of Education

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 3:32 PM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

Thank you for your email regarding the cost of roofing repairs and replacement in School District No. 61. We appreciate the time you have taken to share your feedback with us. We will be sure to share your comments with staff in the Ministry of Education for review and consideration. You may also want to share your suggestion with the school district directly. We have included a link below that will provide you with relevant contact information for your convenience:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/SchoolBoardContacts.do?distNo=061>

Again, thank you for writing and bringing this situation to our attention.

cc: Ministry of Education

From: s.22
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 6:48 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: School District #61

Hello! Congratulations on your re-election! I am in the s.22 School District #61 has been using Tremco, a very expensive product, and they don't give equals or alternatives. They are specifying a single source supplier for a public institution, which is costing very much more

than a generic specification, or a specification including at least 3 suppliers. Last year, School District #61 spent almost one million dollars on re-roofing.

This year, they have a tender out for several schools closing May 30th, again specified Tremco only for the replacement roofs. The savings would be substantial to open this up to more than one supplier (hundreds of thousands of dollars). For information on Tremco, google "Tremco roofing Scam"

Please look into this matter, it could save the Ministry of Education and the tax payers a lot of money.

Sincerely,

s.22

Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX

From: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 10:32 AM
To: Kukucha, Karen A EDUC:EX
Subject: SD#61 - Re-Roofing - Various Schools - Tremco Spec

Follow up with SD61:

From: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2013 10:15 AM
To: 'Soles, Jim'; 'Howley, Seamus'
Cc: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX; Kukucha, Karen A EDUC:EX; Kane, Kathleen EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: SD#61 - Re-Roofing - Various Schools - Tremco Spec

Hi Jim and Seamus,

In light of the queries we received from an individual I had Diana Lucas, our procurement expert, review one of your re-roofing tenders. It was Tender #13-008 Re-Roofing at various schools. She noted that for felts and stripping plies only Tremco Composites is specified. This is contrary to trade treaties and in the future should be modified to include "or approved equal" or "or equal". This would allow proponents to propose the use of other products that would provide equal or better performance. The other option is to specify product performance instead of specific product names.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss further.

Heather Hill
A/Director, Capital Management Branch
Ministry of Education
250-886-5935

Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX

From: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 3:31 PM
To: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: School District #61

Hi Heather,

As discussed, you may want to revamp this brief draft reply back to ^{s.22} I will copy Kathleen & the Premier's office when we send it out.

Thanks,
Janice

To: ^{s.22}

I have read the information you included in your most recent emails. Today I contacted officials in the Greater Victoria School District to inquire about your concerns and District staff assured me they will be looking into this matter. In the meantime, Ministry staff will work with the School District to review procurement policies. Thank you again for bringing this issue to our attention.

Heather Hill, A/Director
Capital Management Branch
BC Ministry of Education

From: ^{s.22}
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 2:48 PM
To: Education Funding Department EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

Thanks for your reply – any efforts in the past with the school board have been a complete waste of time. I you bothered to google "Tremco Roofing Scams", you would understand why. Sincerely,

From: Education Funding Department EDUC:EX [<mailto:Education.FundingDepartment@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 2:28 PM
To: ^{s.22}
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

Ref: 167607

To: ^{s.22}

Your recent email to the Premier's Office has been forwarded to me for response.

In accordance with the *School Act*, the Ministry of Education sets education standards and provides funding for BC's educational system, while local boards of education are responsible for making decisions regarding the operation and maintenance of schools. Each board of education is a separate, legal entity that is

responsible for its budgetary decisions, including the management of facilities within each school district. In addition to its operating budget, each board receives an Annual Facility Grant to be used to upgrade or replace existing building components, such as roofing.

As roofing repairs and replacements for School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) are the responsibility of the Board of Education, I encourage you to share your views directly with the Board. The Greater Victoria School District's website indicates the board may be contacted via: <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/board.aspx> / email: Trustees@sd61.bc.ca

Thank you for writing to express your concerns on this matter.

Heather Hill, A/Director
Capital Management Branch
BC Ministry of Education

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 3:32 PM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

Thank you for your email regarding the cost of roofing repairs and replacement in School District No. 61. We appreciate the time you have taken to share your feedback with us. We will be sure to share your comments with staff in the Ministry of Education for review and consideration. You may also want to share your suggestion with the school district directly. We have included a link below that will provide you with relevant contact information for your convenience:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/SchoolBoardContacts.do?distNo=061>

Again, thank you for writing and bringing this situation to our attention.

cc: Ministry of Education

From: s.22
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 6:48 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: School District #61

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s.22

Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX

From: Kukucha, Karen A EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 11:03 AM
To: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: School District #61

Hi Heather, let me know if you think we should discuss. Just wondering if this could create some noise.
I know it's a SD issue, but

From: Education Funding Department EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 10:56 AM
To: Kukucha, Karen A EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: School District #61

The other emails with details about the Tremco product & 'scams' are on the Division's e-account. /J

From: Education Funding Department EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 9:11 AM
To: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX; Kane, Kathleen EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: School District #61

FYI ^{s.22} has sent 3 more emails with details about this issue, which will follow this email...(the last one is copied to the Premier's Office also).

Janice

From: ^{s.22}
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 2:48 PM
To: Education Funding Department EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

Thanks for your reply – any efforts in the past with the school board have been a complete waste of time. If you bothered to google "Tremco Roofing Scams",
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Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

Ref: 167607

To ^{s.22}

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addition to its operating budget, each board receives an Annual Facility Grant to be used to upgrade or replace existing building components, such as roofing.

As roofing repairs and replacements for School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) are the responsibility of the Board of Education, I encourage you to share your views directly with the Board. The Greater Victoria School District's website indicates the board may be contacted via: <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/board.aspx> / email: Trustees@sd61.bc.ca

Thank you for writing to express your concerns on this matter.

Heather Hill, A/Director
Capital Management Branch
BC Ministry of Education

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 3:32 PM
To: s.22
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Subject: RE: School District #61

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<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/SchoolBoardContacts.do?distNo=061>

Again, thank you for writing and bringing this situation to our attention.

cc: Ministry of Education

From
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 6:48 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: School District #61

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s.22

Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX

From: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 2:22 PM
To: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: 167607- ^{s:22} SD61-roofing contracts

You got it... how's this then?

Ref: 167607
To: ^{s:22}

Your recent email to the Premier's Office has been forwarded to me for response.

In accordance with the *School Act*, the Ministry of Education sets education standards and provides funding for BC's educational system, while local boards of education are responsible for making decisions regarding the operation and maintenance of schools. Each board of education is a separate, legal entity that is responsible for its budgetary decisions, including the management of facilities within each school district. In addition to its operating budget, each board receives an Annual Facility Grant to be used to upgrade or replace existing building components, such as roofing.

As roofing repairs and replacements for School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) are the responsibility of the Board of Education, I encourage you to share your views directly with the Board. The Greater Victoria School District's website indicates the board may be contacted via: <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/board.aspx> / email: Trustees@sd61.bc.ca

Thank you for writing to express your concerns on this matter.

Heather Hill, A/Director
Capital Management Branch
BC Ministry of Education

From: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 2:16 PM
To: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: 167607- ^{s:22} SD61-roofing contracts

Janice,

What do you think about shortening the second paragraph to:

As roofing repairs and replacements for School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) are the responsibility of the Board of Education, I encourage you to share your views directly with the Board. The Greater Victoria School District's website indicates the board may be contacted via: <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/board.aspx> / email: Trustees@sd61.bc.ca

Heather

From: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 11:52 AM
To: Hill, Heather K EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: 167607 s.22 SD61-roofing contracts

Hi Heather,
Kathleen has reviewed/approved this response. Please let me know if you approve so I can send it out (or if you want edits made).

Thanks,

Janice Cambridge
Communications & Issues Management Unit | Resource Management Division | Ministry of Education
Cell: s.22 Fax: 250-953-4985

From: Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 4:26 PM
To: Kane, Kathleen EDUC:EX
Subject: 167607 s.22 SD61-roofing contracts

Hi Kathleen,
As discussed, here's a draft reply.

Ref: 167607
To: s.22

Your recent email to the Premier's Office has been forwarded to me for response.

In accordance with the *School Act*, the Ministry of Education sets education standards and provides funding for BC's educational system, while local boards of education are responsible for making decisions regarding the operation and maintenance of schools. Each board of education is a separate, legal entity that is responsible for its budgetary decisions, including the management of facilities within each school district. In addition to its operating budget, each board receives an Annual Facility Grant to be used to upgrade or replace existing building components, such as roofing.

I understand that School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) is planning roof replacements for some of its schools and you have concerns about the high costs of a specific product requirement for the project(s). As the Greater Victoria Board of Education controls the budgetary spending for the school district, I encourage you to share your views about the use of the Tremco product directly with the Board. The Greater Victoria School District's website indicates the board may be contacted via: <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/board.aspx/> email: Trustees@sd61.bc.ca

Thank you for writing to express your concerns on this matter.

Heather Hill, A/Director
Capital Management Branch
BC Ministry of Education

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 3:32 PM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: School District #61

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<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/SchoolBoardContacts.do?distNo=061>

Again, thank you for writing and bringing this situation to our attention.

cc: Ministry of Education

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Subject: School District #61

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