MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Chair and Members of the School Board
  Dr. Donald E. Fennoy, Superintendent
  Chair and Members of the Audit Committee

FROM: Lung Chiu, Inspector General

DATE: July 15, 2019

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Final Investigative Report
  Case: #19-0001
  Title: Vendor Pre-payment

In accordance with School Board Policy 1.092, we hereby transmit the above-referenced final report.

The report addresses the allegation vendor Sempco, Inc. received a pre-payment prior to delivering the commodity purchased.

The results of the investigation determined the allegation to be substantiated.

The report is finalized and will be posted on the Inspector General’s website; https://www.palmbeachschools.org/departments/inspector_general's_office
Case Number: 19-0001

Date of Complaint: 12/10/2018

Complainant: Diana Fedderman, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Subject: William (Bill) Purtell, Library Media Support Manager

Witnesses: Janet (Jan) Butts, Purchasing Agent III/Buyer
           Darci Garbacz, Director of Purchasing
           Tina Sparks, Instruction Materials Specialist
           Dongsup Ro, Sempco, Inc. (vendor, co-owner)

Type of Report: FINAL

AUTHORITY

School Board Policy 1.092 provides for the Inspector General to receive and consider complaints, and conduct, supervise, or coordinate such inquiries, investigations, or reviews, as the Inspector General deems appropriate.

This investigation was conducted by Investigator Tanya Lawson, in compliance with the Quality Standards for Investigations, Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General, promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.

INTRODUCTION

On December 4, 2018, the OIG met with Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Diana Fedderman. Ms. Fedderman’s concern was that it appeared that Library Media Support Manager William Purtell authorized a pre-payment in the amount of $343,630.40 to Sempco, Inc. (vendor) for goods that have not been delivered as per the bid awarded contract.

BACKGROUND

According to the School District of Palm Beach County’s Purchasing Department website “Purpose and Functions: Purchasing provides professional and efficient procurement services supporting education, financial responsibility, and community service, through contracting, for all commodities and services, maintains procedures fostering fair and open competition, inspires
confidence that contracts are awarded equitably and acquires the greatest possible value and quality in the services and products purchased, with timely delivery.”

ALLEGATION

William Purcell authorized a pre-payment in the amount of $343,630.40 to vendor Sempco, Inc. for goods that have not been delivered per the bid awarded contract. **Substantiated.**

GOVERNING DIRECTIVES

- School Board Policy 3.02, Code of Ethics
- School Board Policy 6.14, Purchasing Department
- Purchasing Department Terms and Conditions
- Palm Beach County School District Invitation to Bid Number 19C-5K
- Sempco, Inc. Invoice

ALLEGATION 1: EVIDENCE & TESTIMONY

**Allegation:** William Purcell authorized a pre-payment in the amount of $343,630.40 to vendor Sempco, Inc. for goods that have not been delivered per the bid awarded contract. **Substantiated.**

Testimony of Assistant Superintendent Teaching and Learning Diana Fedderman

On December 12, 2018, the OIG conducted an interview with Diana Fedderman. Ms. Fedderman stated Director of Purchasing Darci Garbacz, and Purchasing Agent Jan Butts asked to have a meeting with her to discuss instructional materials that were to be delivered by Sempco, Inc. Sempco had not delivered the science kits in a timely manner.

Ms. Fedderman stated typically when a Purchase Order² (P.O.) is created, the item/bid award goes before the School Board and the contract gets approved, the Purchase Order is opened, and the vendor then supplies the District with the product, the vendor submits an invoice, the invoice gets approved, and the vendor receives payment. Director of Purchasing Darci Garbacz is the only individual in the purchasing department authorized to make exceptions to School Board Policy 6.14.

Ms. Fedderman stated when she received the invoice in PeopleSoft, it appeared as if all of the materials had been delivered, properly receipted, quantity and quality approved, and the contract

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¹ The OIG findings were determined using the standards that appear on the signature page at the end of this report.
² A computer generated document prepared by the Purchasing Department to place orders with vendors based on a purchasing process coordinated by the Purchasing Department. This document is a legally binding contract and will serve as the basis for an order, receiving report and payment voucher. It provides an audit trail for transactions processed by the Purchasing Department on behalf of all schools and departments.
terms had been fulfilled, therefore, she approved the payment. Ms. Fedderman stated she did not realize that not all of the schools had received their science kits until she was notified by a few of the Principals in October 2018.

Ms. Fedderman stated she spoke to Mr. Dongsup Ro in November 2018 (prior to her knowledge of the vendor receiving his pre-payment), and was told by Mr. Ro that the kits were to be delivered by the end of November 2018. Ms. Fedderman stated Mr. Ro informed her that he was having issues getting all of the parts needed for the kits. Ms. Fedderman stated the District should have received everything around the first week of September 2018.

Testimony of Dongsup Ro Sempco, Inc.

On December 14, 2018, the OIG conducted a telephone interview with Dongsup Ro, co-owner of Sempco, Inc.³ Mr. Ro stated he has been in business since 1986. Mr. Ro stated the Purchase Order came sometime in August 2018, and without there being an open Purchase Order, he could not order the materials. Mr. Ro stated for this bid, the curriculum was different from when he did business with the District nine years ago. Mr. Ro stated there were thousands of separate parts that he had to order from either out of the state of New Hampshire or out of the United States. Mr. Ro stated he asked Mr. Purtell for an advance of the payment, which he had also done nine years prior. Mr. Ro stated he had labor issues with this order and was not fully staffed until September. Additionally, for the items that only China could provide, China required 50% upfront payment before they would begin gathering the parts for the order. Moreover, the balance had to be paid to China before they would ship the order. Mr. Ro stated different pieces required ordering from different sellers that had only a limited amount and could not complete the large order required for the District. Mr. Ro stated the issue caused him to have to order outside of the USA. Mr. Ro stated he did have some of the materials on site, and was able to have those items packaged, but was waiting on the thousands of pieces that were ordered elsewhere to fully complete the order.

Mr. Ro stated he was aware of the District’s policy regarding payments to vendors, but stated that he needed the funds in order to get the parts needed. After the orders were packaged by his labor staff, the order had to be put on a 45-foot trailer that holds only 24 pallets at one time. The 24 pallets contained enough kits for approximately 15 schools at one time depending on the number of kits that were required for each school. Mr. Ro stated by October, he had the full kits produced and all the science kits were shipped, and the order was completed in November 2018.

Testimony of Director of Purchasing Darci Garbacz

On December 18, 2018, the OIG conducted an interview with Darci Garbacz. Ms. Garbacz stated vendors use a system called BidSync (a web-based government bidding notification service) and the outcomes of the bid responses are posted to BidSync, provided there is not a bid protest. Ms. Garbacz stated the bid in question was for science kits and Sempco won the bid. The bid was opened May 29, 2018, awarded June 18, 2018, and approved by the School Board on July 18, 2018 (TLL-022118; curriculum bid). The requisition is put in by the department requesting the goods for the science kits, then, a Purchase Order was dispatched electronically from PeopleSoft to the

³ Sempco, Inc.; 51 Lake Street, Nashua, NH 03060-3262
address on file for the vendor. The vendor would then proceed to order/make the products necessary to fulfill the contract with the District.

Ms. Garbacz stated the bid serves as the District’s contract with Sempco (vendor). Ms. Garbacz stated the delivery date for Sempco was in August 2018, September at the latest. Ms. Garbacz stated at the end of October, Purchasing Agent Jan Butts informed her that the science kits had not been delivered as scheduled. Ms. Garbacz stated she was concerned because the science kits were curriculum based, and it was close to November, and the teachers had lost time. Ms. Garbacz stated she asked Ms. Butts how the late delivery of the science kits would impact the teachers and was told that the late delivery impacts instructional learning because the students cannot do as much hands-on learning, but the teachers have other options that did not include the science kits. Grades K-5 have been impacted by the delay in the delivery of the science kits.

Ms. Garbacz stated she did not understand why the vendor appeared to not be working with Purchasing Agent Jan Butts and why the Instructional Materials department had information that purchasing did not. Ms. Garbacz stated she reached out to Instruction Materials Specialist Tina Sparks who informed her that she was aware that the vendor was late, but had been in constant communication with the vendor. Ms. Sparks disclosed that the vendor had already been paid, even though the products had not been delivered to all of the elementary schools.

Per School District Policy 6.14 (7)-Purchasing Department-Advance Payments:

To ensure adequate protection to the School District that goods and contractual services will be provided, advanced payment for goods and contractual services is discouraged. With adequate safeguards, however, the School Board may approve advance payments for contract requiring School Board approval; the Superintendent or his/her designee may approve advance payments for contracts requiring his/her approval.

Ms. Garbacz stated the terms of the contract were required to be paid in full within 30 days of the date when the goods were dispatched, and if the vendor was having issues, she would have suggested that the vendor withdraw without penalty and the District could go with the next lowest bid. Ms. Garbacz stated she had District I.T. pull the emails between Tina Sparks, Bill Purtell and anyone associated with Sempco. Ms. Garbacz stated she reviewed the emails and discovered that Mr. Ro (Sempco) requested to be pre-paid. In that same email communication, Mr. Ro disclosed to Ms. Sparks that in 2009, Mr. Purtell approved a similar request for pre-payment. Ms. Garbacz stated in October 2018, she attempted to reach out to Mr. Ro, after discovering that he had already been paid $343,630.40 from a Purchase Order that totaled $740,000.00 (leaving $396,369.60 remaining on the Purchase Order). Ms. Garbacz stated the request for pre-payment did not go through accounting which, would have gone to her to be approved. Instead, it went through as a vendor generated invoice that was incorrectly receipted before the District received the goods. After the initial phone call that she had with him, Mr. Ro would not return her phone calls.

Ms. Garbacz stated she also learned that the quality of the product was also in question since at least one of the science kits for either the kindergarten or first grade class contained a match box car that disintegrated, but was not aware if this was an isolated incident or not. Ms. Garbacz stated
Ms. Butts, Ms. Fedderman and herself met on December 18, 2018, to try to ascertain a date to go to the schools to find out if they could isolate defective kits before they were utilized.

Ms. Garbacz stated the terms and conditions of the current bid are the same as the prior bid that Sempco completed for the District.

During the OIG’s interview with Ms. Garbacz on December 18, 2018, she also disclosed that there was a contract review meeting held on August 3, 2018 with herself, Tina Sparks, Jan Butts and Bill Purcell. During the meeting, the terms and conditions of the contract were reviewed and discussed. If there were any issues, or questions, they could have been clarified at this meeting.

**Testimony of Purchasing Agent Janet (Jan) Butts**

On December 18, 2018, the OIG conducted an interview with Jan Butts. Ms. Butts stated the bid was approved by the Board on July 18, 2018 (Board item #19C5k). The purchase order was sent to the vendor on August 6, 2018 which, is the vendor’s authorization to proceed with the order, and start delivery of the science kits to the elementary schools.

Ms. Butts stated the science kits were to be delivered by September 20, 2018 (45 days from the purchase order being opened). Ms. Butts stated she recalled having a conversation with Ms. Garbacz who informed her that she had given Mr. Ro until November 15, 2018 to have all of the science kits delivered, but Mr. Ro stated November 30, 2018 would be better.

Ms. Butts stated on or around November 2018, she and Ms. Garbacz phoned Ms. Sparks to ask her what the status of the materials was, and Ms. Sparks informed them that the vendor had already received partial payment. Ms. Butts stated based on the conversation with Ms. Sparks, she reviewed the receipt, the purchase order and the vendor’s invoice. The receipt in PeopleSoft showed that the purchase order was paid on September 20, 2018. Mr. Ro was to have completed all deliveries by September 20, 2018.

In the addendum to the bid instructions, the special conditions, paragraph ‘b’ states “time of delivery is of the essence to keep the curriculum on schedule. All orders must be delivered within 30 days after receipt of purchase order”, however, addendum #2, question five dated June 11, 2018, gives an extra 15 days for a total delivery completion date of 45 days. Ms. Butts stated currently there are approximately 60 schools that are still without science kits. Additionally, Ms. Butts stated that as of December 6, 2018 she is still receiving Bill of Ladings from Sempco.

Ms. Butts stated she had communication with Mr. Ro either on the phone or an email, but once she found out that he had already been paid, she ceased communication with him until given direction by Ms. Garbacz.

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4Bill of lading works as a receipt of freight services, a contract between a freight carrier and shipper and a document of title. The bill of lading is a legally binding document providing the driver and carrier details needed to process the freight. www.freightquote.com.
Testimony of Instruction Materials Specialist Tina Sparks

On January 8, 2019, the OIG conducted an interview with Tina Sparks. Ms. Sparks stated she worked under Bill Purtell prior to his retirement, in October 2018, from the District. Ms. Sparks stated Sempco won the bid for science kits and she was responsible for facilitating the orders for the elementary schools. Ms. Sparks stated she does not handle the bid process nor the financial aspect of the bid process.

Ms. Sparks stated the Purchase Order was done at the beginning of August 2018, and Sempco had until September 2018 to fulfill the order. Ms. Sparks stated Mr. Ro emailed her at the end of August requesting to be pre-paid, and she forwarded the email to Mr. Purtell for him to reply to Mr. Ro’s request. Ms. Sparks stated since she does not handle finances, she did not know it was peculiar for the vendor to request to be paid in advance of delivering the goods. Ms. Sparks stated Mr. Purtell approved the request for Mr. Ro to receive an advance payment on August 24, 2018.

Ms. Sparks stated in September, Curriculum Development & School Improvement Programming Planner Tom Salinsky began asking about the status of the science kits. Ms. Sparks stated Mr. Purtell instructed her to reach out to Mr. Ro to find out the status of the deliveries. Mr. Ro stated his company was behind on the deliveries, and the new delivery date was the end of October. Ms. Sparks stated during this time, science departments wanted to know when they would receive the science kits.

Ms. Sparks stated not all of the science kits have been delivered and the District also ordered ten extra science kits for every grade. The extra science kits would last for the next five years (this is in addition to the what is supposed to be delivered to the schools).

Ms. Sparks stated Mr. Ro conveyed to her that he was having labor issues and issues getting all of the necessary parts together due to the distributor having delays. Mr. Ro expressed that there were a lot more kits required this time than when he did it for the District in 2009.

Testimony of Library Media Support Manager William Purtell

On January 15, 2019, the OIG conducted an interview with former District employee, William (Bill) Purtell. Mr. Purtell stated he was the manager of instructional materials and library media services in the Teaching and Learning Department. Mr. Purtell stated Purchase Orders would begin with him for the amount needed and he would approve the expenditures. Sr. Accounting Technician of Instructional Materials Barbie Keough would open the Purchase Order at his direction.

Mr. Purtell stated the initial bid process for the new science curriculum was in January 2017, and Sempco missed the bid deadline. The other three vendors came in at prices over $1 million which, at the time, the District did not have the funding. Mr. Purtell stated due to conversations he had with the three vendors, he knew that they secured their materials from Sempco, Inc. Mr. Purtell stated at the time, he and Purchasing General Manager Genell McMann had a conversation about the bids, and agreed to conduct a re-bid. The re-bid was in January 2018, and Sempco was able to participate in the re-bid. Sempco came in at a reasonable rate. The bid award was approved by the
board in July 2018, Mr. PurteII stated Instructional Materials Specialist Tina Sparks was in charge of the process due to him preparing to retire. Mr. PurteII stated he was hands off during the process, and was unaware of any issues. Mr. PurteII stated Purchasing Agent Jan Butts and Ms. Sparks were handling the entire process.

Mr. PurteII stated in early August, he had a conversation with Mr. Ro to see if he was ready to begin delivery of the science kits, and Mr. Ro conveyed that he was ready. Mr. PurteII stated in early September (unsure of the exact date) he was contacted by Mr. Ro who stated that the first shipment was ready for delivery. Mr. PurteII stated it was at that time that Mr. Ro asked to be paid a portion of the bid award upfront for the items already shipped. Mr. PurteII stated he assumed that Mr. Ro had shipped out the science kits. Mr. PurteII stated Ms. Sparks told him that everything was going according to the agreed upon schedule. The completion of the project was to be done by the end of September, no later than early October.

Mr. PurteII stated he began receiving phone calls from some of the officials at the elementary schools informing him they had not received their science kits. Mr. PurteII stated once he received the delivery timeline from Ms. Sparks, he assumed everything was going according to schedule, and the schools were receiving their science kits as agreed. Mr. PurteII stated a program planner at one of the elementary schools informed him that there is an area in the District that had not received their science kits. Mr. PurteII stated when he spoke to Mr. Ro, he assured him the science kits were in the process of being delivered. Mr. PurteII added that on at least three separate conversations with Mr. Ro, he was assured by Mr. Ro that the science kits were being shipped to the schools.

Mr. PurteII stated it is not District policy to pay a vendor prior to the District receiving goods, and that it was his responsibility, but he did not oversee the project as he should have prior to his departure in October.

Mr. PurteII stated the last time he spoke to Mr. Ro, (August/September 2018) he promised that the items were being delivered. Mr. PurteII stated he told Ms. Sparks to let him know if there were any issues, but Ms. Sparks did not notify him of any issues. Mr. PurteII acknowledged that he did not follow-up and thought the elementary schools received their kits. Mr. PurteII stated he is aware of District Policy 6.14.

Mr. PurteII stated he takes full responsibility for not following up with the status of the order with the vendor.

**Documentation Reviewed**

The documentation obtained by the OIG demonstrated the Purchase Order was opened August 1, 2018 (Exhibit 1), the invoice from the vendor was dated August 24, 2018 (Exhibit 2) and was paid out by the District on September 20, 2018 (Exhibit 3). The documentation clarifies the dates given by Mr. PurteII during his interview on January 15, 2019, in which, he was unsure of the dates of events.

The OIG reviewed documentation forwarded via email by Ms. Garbacz. The emailed document explained that the total cost for the five-year contract for the kits is $554,033.44 (Exhibit 4). The
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OIG received an additional response from Ms. Fedderman clarifying the $554,033.44 total as follows:

"The contract for the science kits is for five years. The kits contain both consumable (e.g. soil) and non-consumable items (e.g. flashlights, mini-race cars); however, the bulk of the kits are non-consumable items, thus the bulk of the funds are spent the first year. For the remaining four years of the contract, Sempco is to replace the consumable items of the kits (Exhibit 5)."

On December 21, 2018, the District issued a Notice of Termination to Sempco, Inc., (Exhibit 6) and on January 23, 2019, the Board approved the action to terminate Sempco’s bid award (bid number 19C-5K). Exhibit seven illustrates a small sample of schools that either did not receive science kits with all of the necessary materials or did not receive them at all (Exhibit 7).

Based on the evidence, testimony and documentation obtained during this investigation, the OIG determined that the allegation that William Purcell authorized a pre-payment in the amount of $343,630.40 to vendor Sempco, Inc., for goods that have not been delivered per the bid awarded contract was Substantiated.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The OIG recommends that all staff involved with the delivery of goods and services for the District follow District Policy 6.14 (Purchasing) as well as any/all purchasing procedures and guidelines to ensure that the District is protected from the potential of vendor mismanagement.

Additionally, the Purchasing Director should consider providing additional training for staff who deal with vendors to ensure that all involved understand the process for vendor payments. Moreover, an additional layer of protection for the District should be added whereas, the Purchasing Director is provided documentation (proof) by the school/department that the District has received all goods and contractual services prior to approving payment.

**AFFECCTED PARTY NOTICE**

In accordance with School Board Policy 1.092 (8)(b)(iv), on 4/26/2019, William Purcell and Dongsup Ro were notified of the investigative findings and provided with an opportunity to submit a written response to these findings. The OIG received an email response from Mr. Purcell stating “I appreciate the opportunity, but no comment is needed” (Exhibit 8). The OIG received a response from Dongsup Ro stating he feels the District is being unfair to him, but did not dispute the findings of the investigation (Exhibit 9).

The OIG findings will remain the same.
On July 2, 2019, the OIG received an email from the District Deputy General Counsel Blair LittleJohn regarding the outcome of the undelivered science kits. The monetary value of the undelivered kits was $14,743.20. This matter has been settled by General Counsel for the Palm Beach County School District. No further action necessary.

Palm Beach County School Board Members
Donald E. Fennoy II, Superintendent
Audit Committee Members
Office of Professional Standards
Director of Purchasing
OIG file
The evidentiary standard used by the School District of Palm Beach County OIG in determining whether the facts and claims asserted in the complaint were proven or disproven is based upon the preponderance of the evidence. Preponderance of the evidence is contrasted with “beyond a reasonable doubt,” which is the more severe test required to convict a criminal and “clear and convincing evidence,” a standard describing proof of a matter established to be substantially more likely than not to be true. OIG investigative findings classified as “substantiated” means there was sufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion that the actions occurred and there was a violation of law, policy, rule, or contract to support the allegation. Investigative findings classified as “unfounded” means sufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion that the actions did not occur and there was no violation of law, policy, rule, or contract to substantiate the allegation. Investigative findings classified as “unsubstantiated” means there was insufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion that the actions did or did not occur and a violation of law, policy, rule, or contract to support the allegation could not be proven or disproven.
School District of Palm Beach County, Florida
3300 Forest Hill Blvd
Suite A-323
West Palm Beach FL 33406

PENDING APPROVAL
Purchase Order# 2019003445
Supplier: 0000004815
SEMPCO INC
51 LAKE ST
NASHUA NH 03060

Purchase Order Date
2013003445  03/01/2018
Revision Page

Payment Terms Freight Terms
.75/05 N30 Free on Board at Destination

Ship Via

Buyer Phone Currency
Janet Butts  561/434-9213  561/953-3323
Janet.Butts@palmbeachschools.org

Bill To:
8100 - Accounts Payable Dept
3300 Forest Hill Blvd
Suite A-323
West Palm Beach FL 33406
Phone: 561/434-8800

Ship To:
8030 - K-12 Instr Mat - Lib Media Sr
1400 North Florida Margo Rd
West Palm Beach FL 33409
Phone: 561/684-5113

Please reference the Palm Beach County School District Web Site for Terms and Conditions Related to this Purchase Order
http://www.palmbeachschools.org/purchasing/bids/purch/infol or FAX Request to 561-434-5185
Note: Any modifications, including freight charges, to the original Purchase Order must be approved
(through the issuance of a Change Order prior to shipment(s)).

Tax Exempt? Y Tax Exempt # 853013972510
School/Department Reference Name 8030 Sempco
Header Comments:

1 Remit Invoices to:
Accounts Payable
3300 Forest Hill Blvd
Suite A-323
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
or email as a .pdf. File to:
spinvolver@palmbeachschools.org
(One invoice per .pdf file please)

Any questions regarding remittance of invoices should be directed to the
Accounts Payable Manager 561-434-9701

All Invoices are subject to audit.

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740,000.00

Total PO Amount

740,000.00

TOTAL PAGES FOR THIS PO = 1

Unauthorized
## Sempco, Incorporated

**P.O. Box 3262**  
**51 Lake Street**  
**Nashua, NH 03061-3262**  
**Phone: 1-603-889-1830**  
**Fax: 1-603-889-1766**

### INVOICE

**Invoice Number:** 27270  
**Invoice Date:** Aug 24, 2018  
**Page:** 1

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**Customer PO:** 2019003445  
**Payment Terms:** Net 30 Days

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**Sales Tax:**  
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**Payment/Credit Applied:**  
**TOTAL:** 343,630.40

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**School Website:**

**School Type:**

**School Grades:**

**School Description:**

**School Mission:**

**School Populations:**

**School Programs:**

**School Policies:**

**School Board:**

**School Staff:**
Explaination of the Make up of the Science Kits
1 message

Diana Fedderman <Diana.Fedderman@palmbeachschools.org>  Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 3:57 PM
To: TANYA Lawson <tanya.lawson@palmbeachschools.org>

The contract for the science kits is for five years. The kits contain both consumable (e.g., soil) and non-consumable items (e.g., flashlights, mini-race cars); however, the bulk of the kits are non-consumable items, thus the bulk of the funds are spent the first year. For the remaining four years of the contract, Sempco is to replace the consumable items of the kits.

Diana Feddeman
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
School District of Palm Beach County
3300 Forest Hill Blvd. Suite C223
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Office: 561-357-5989
Cell: 561-951-6326
@DianaFedderman
December 21, 2018

Ro Dong-Sup
Sempco, Inc.
51 Lake Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Subject: Notice of Termination for Default

Dear Mr. Dong-Sup:

Based upon Sempco, Inc.'s ("Sempco") failure to timely deliver the elementary science kits in accordance with the Terms & Conditions of School District of Palm Beach County Bid No. 19C-5K (the "Bid"), this Notice of Termination for Default is being provided to you.

Specifically, the Bid required Sempco to deliver all of the science kits within forty-five (45) days of the August 6, 2018 issuance of the Purchase Order, which calculates to September 20, 2018. As of this date, only 72 of the 109 schools have received their science kits. Notwithstanding numerous notices of non-compliance with terms of the Bid and the courtesy extensions of time that were granted by District staff as set forth in emails attached as Exhibit "A", Sempco failed to meet the November 15, 2018, and subsequent November 30, 2018, delivery deadlines.

Accordingly, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Bid, the School District hereby provides notice to Sempco that it is recommending termination of the contract and that the School Board will consider this recommendation at its January 23, 2019, meeting. At that same meeting, the School Board will also consider whether Sempco should be suspended from doing business with the School Board. It is staff's recommendation that Sempco be suspended from doing business with the School Board for a period of twelve months.

Additionally, it has come to our attention that some of the contents of some of the kits which have actually been delivered are substandard and non-conforming in quality. Therefore, demand is hereby made for Sempco to immediately repay all funds which have been paid to Sempco to date.

The School District hereby reserves all rights it has against Sempco with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Fennoy II, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

c: Darci Garbacz, Director, Purchasing Department
Blair Little/John, Deputy General Counsel

Attachments
Jenda Item Details

Meeting Jan 23, 2019 - 7. REGULAR BOARD MEETING at 5 p.m. in the Board Room
Category 14a. Consent Agenda - Purchasing Items (FMPA/FMPF/FMPO)
Subject FMPA4 Termination of Bid 19C-5K
Type Action (Consent)
Recommended Action I recommend the Board approve the termination of Bid 19C-5K awarded on July 18, 2018, and consider whether Sempco, Inc., the bid awarded vendor, should be suspended from doing business with the School Board for a period of twelve months.

DESCRIPTION:
Approve the request for termination of Bid 19C-5K and consider whether Sempco, Inc., the bid awarded vendor, should be suspended from doing business with the School Board for a period of twelve months.

This request for approval of termination is based upon Sempco, Inc.'s failure to deliver, in a timely manner, elementary science kits in accordance with the Terms & Conditions of School District of Palm Beach County Bid No. 19C-5K.

Specifically, the Bid required Sempco to deliver all of the science kits within forty-five (45) days of the August 6, 2018 issuance of the Purchase Order, which calculates to September 20, 2018. As of this date, only 72 of the 109 schools have received their science kits. Notwithstanding numerous notices of non-compliance with terms of the Bid and the courtesy extensions of time that were granted by District staff, as set forth in emails attached as Exhibit "A", Sempco failed to meet the November 15, 2018, and subsequent November 30, 2018, delivery deadlines.

Notice was provided to Sempco, Inc., via certified letter on December 21, 2018, that recommendation of termination of the contract would be presented to Board on January 23, 2019; the School Board would also consider, during that January 23rd meeting, whether Sempco, Inc. should be suspended from doing business with the School Board for a period of twelve months.

CONTACTS:
Keith Oswald, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools (keith.oswald@palmbeachschools.org)
Michael J. Burke, Chief Financial Officer (mike.burke@palmbeachschools.org)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
The financial impact to the District is unknown at this time.

Strategic Themes (choose all that apply):
☒ 1. Effective and relevant instruction to meet the needs of all students.
☒ 2. Positive and Supportive School Climate
☒ 3. Talent Development
☒ 4. High-Performance Culture

Long-Term Outcomes (choose all that apply):
☒ 1. Increase reading on grade level by 3rd grade.
☒ 2. Ensure high school readiness.
☒ 3. Increase the high school graduation rate.
☒ 4. Foster Post-graduate success.

Beneficial Interest - Sempco, Inc..pdf (55 KB) 19C-5K Bid.pdf (2,160 KB)
19C-5K Tab.pdf (405 KB) FMPA1 7.18.18.pdf (41 KB) Email Correspondence.pdf (1,024 KB)
NOBODY'S PERFECT
PBCPS

Every order is carefully inspected. However, occasionally a less-than-perfect piece of equipment is shipped, or an item is missing. If there is a problem with your order and you report as soon as possible, we will correct it. Please fill out this form and mail, fax or email attach it to:

Fax # 603-889-1766
Phone #603-889-1830
Email – Alyssa@sempcoinc.com

Please fill in the following information and then list specific nature of problem(s) with equipment item(s) enclosed. Please note: FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETE INFORMATION MAY DELAY YOUR REPLACEMENT ORDER.

Your school name: **Belle Glade Elementary**
Your name: **M. Adelle Sumner**
Your phone number (area code): **571-331-3902**
Date this form being filled out: **2/11/19**
Is this your first request to Sempco, Inc. to have this problem corrected? **Yes**  **No**

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SHIPPING LABEL AT BOTTOM OF THIS FORM BEFORE CONTINUING.

Below: list specific problem(s). Refer to packing lists for names or descriptions of items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF ITEM</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>STATEMENT OF PROBLEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st grade kit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>never received</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Plant shipping information (Do not write in this box). FOR PLANT USE ONLY)

THIS IS YOUR SHIPPING LABEL. PLEASE FILL IT OUT CAREFULLY. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT.

**"THIS SHIPMENT IS A NO-CHARGE REPLACEMENT SHIPMENT"**

SCHOOL: **Belle Glade Elementary**
ATTENTION: **M. Adelle Sumner**
ADDRESS: **500 NW Ave L**
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: **Belle Glade, FL 33430**

[Signature]
[Date] 4/7/99
NODDIES PERFECT

Every order is carefully inspected. However, occasionally a less-than-perfect piece of equipment is shipped, or an item is missing. If there is a problem with your order and you report as soon as possible, we will correct it. Please fill out this form and mail, fax or email attach it to:

Sempco, Inc., Attn: Customer Service, 51 Lake Street, Nashua, NH 03060-3282
Fax # 603-889-1766
Phone #603-889-1830
Email – Alyssa@sempcoinc.com

Please fill in the following information and then list specific nature of problem(s) with equipment item(s) enclosed. Please note: FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETE INFORMATION MAY DELAY YOUR REPLACEMENT ORDER.

Your school name: Clifford O. Taylor
Your name: Ashley Schull
Your phone number (area code): 516-804-3547
Date this form being filled out: 12/21/18
Is this your first request to Sempco, Inc. to have this problem corrected? Yes _ No

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SHIPPING LABEL AT BOTTOM OF THIS FORM BEFORE CONTINUING.

Below, list specific problem(s). Refer to packing lists for names or descriptions of items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF ITEM</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>STATEMENT OF PROBLEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breaker</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Paint Brush 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Counter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pipets 2 sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binoculars</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pop cubes 1st grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ribbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beetle Mattricone</td>
<td>2 sets</td>
<td>Glitter fasteners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plant shipping information (Do not write in this box). FOR PLANT USE ONLY

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THIS IS YOUR SHIPPING LABEL. PLEASE FILL IT OUT CAREFULLY. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT.

**THIS SHIPMENT IS A NO-CHARGE REPLACEMENT SHIPMENT**

SCHOOL: Clifford O. Taylor
ATTENTION: Ashley Schull
ADDRESS: 4200 Purdy Lane, Palm Springs
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: Palm Springs, FL 33406
Every order is carefully inspected. However, occasionally a less-than-perfect piece of equipment is shipped, or an item is missing. If there is a problem with your order and you report it as soon as possible, we will correct it. Please fill out this form and mail, fax or email it to:

Fax # 603-889-1756
Phone #603-889-1830
Email – Alyssa@sempcolnc.com

Please fill in the following information and then list specific nature of problem(s) with equipment item(s) enclosed. Please note: FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETE INFORMATION MAY DELAY YOUR REPLACEMENT ORDER.

Your school name: Belvedere
Your name: Annie
Your phone number (area code): 561 838 5901
Date this form being filled out: 1/18/19
Is this your first request to Sempco, Inc, to have this problem corrected? Yes _ No

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SHIPPING LABEL AT BOTTOM OF THIS FORM BEFORE CONTINUING.

Below: list specific problem(s). Refer to packing list for names or descriptions of items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF ITEM</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>STATEMENT OF PROBLEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacker</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maibles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint Brusher</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain gauge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back collector</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bubble Master</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Back</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plant shipping information (Do not write in this box). FOR PLANT USE ONLY

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THIS IS YOUR SHIPPING LABEL. PLEASE FILL IT OUT CAREFULLY. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT.

**THIS SHIPMENT IS A NO CHARGE REPLACEMENT SHIPMENT**

SCHOOL: Belvedere Elementary
ATTENTION: 2nd Grade Science - Sammy
ADDRESS: 3000 Parker Avenue - WPB, FL 33405
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: West Palm Beach, FL 33405
NOBODY'S PERFECT

Every order is carefully inspected. However, occasionally a less-than-perfect piece of equipment is shipped, or an item is missing. If there is a problem with your order and you report as soon as possible, we will correct it. Please fill out this form and mail, fax or email attach it to:

Fax # 603-889-1766
Phone #603-889-1830
Email - Alyssa@sompooinc.com

Please fill in the following information and then list specific nature of problem(s) with equipment item(s) enclosed. Please note: FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETE INFORMATION MAY DELAY YOUR REPLACEMENT ORDER.

Your school name: Belvedere Elementary
Your name: Mr. Gene Feldman
Your phone number (area code): 501-838-5900
Date this form being filled out: 1/7/2019
Is this your first request to Sompoo, Inc. to have this problem corrected? X Yes _ No

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SHIPPING LABEL AT BOTTOM OF THIS FORM BEFORE CONTINUING.

Below, list specific problem(s). Refer to packing list for names or description of items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF ITEM</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>STATEMENT OF PROBLEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wind-up Walking Toy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Missing Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Box Chalk (12/box)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Missing Items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**THIS IS YOUR SHIPPING LABEL. PLEASE FILL IT OUT CAREFULLY. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT.**

**THIS SHIPMENT IS A NO-CHARGE REPLACEMENT SHIPMENT**

SCHOOL: Belvedere Elementary
ATTENTION: Gene Feldman /4th grade
ADDRESS: 3000 Parker Ave.
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: West Palm Beach, Fl. 33405
Every order is carefully inspected. However, occasionally a less-than-perfect piece of equipment is shipped, or an item is missing. If there is a problem with your order and you report it as soon as possible, we will correct it. Please fill out this form and mail, fax or e-mail it to:

Fax: 603-889-1766
Phone: 603-889-1830
Email: Alyssa@sempcoinc.com

Please fill in the following information and then list specific nature of problem(s) with equipment item(s) enclosed. Please note: FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETE INFORMATION MAY DELAY YOUR REPLACEMENT ORDER.

Your school name: Belvedere

Your name: ____________________________________________

Your phone number (area code): ____________________________

Date this form being filled out: ____________________________

Is this your first request to Sempco, Inc. to have this problem corrected? ___ Yes ___ No

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SHIPPING LABEL AT BOTTOM OF THIS FORM BEFORE CONTINUING.

Below, list specific problem(s). Refer to packing lists for names or descriptions of item.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF ITEM</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>STATEMENT OF PROBLEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turning forks</td>
<td>4 sets of 8</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UV stand</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UV stands</td>
<td>4 sets of 250</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB’s</td>
<td>4 sets</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fastener</td>
<td>4 sets</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**THIS SHIPMENT IS A NO-CHARGE REPLACEMENT SHIPMENT**

SCHOOL: Belvedere Elementary

ATTENTION: W. Kerr / 5th Grade

ADDRESS: 3000 Parker Ave

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: WPB FL 33405
Re: 19-0001 20-Day Notice

2 messages

cmpanyahsa@aol.com <cmpanyahsa@aol.com> Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 9:56 AM
To: tanya.lawson@palmbeachschools.org

Tanya,

I appreciate the opportunity, but no comment is needed. I wish you well.

-----Original Message-----
From: TANYA Lawson <tanya.lawson@palmbeachschools.org>
To: cmpanyahsa <cmpanyahsa@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Apr 26, 2019 8:56 am
Subject: 19-0001 20-Day Notice

William Purtell,

In accordance with School Board Policy 1.092, a twenty (20) working day letter is being sent to you via email. Included, is a Draft report, and If you wish to respond to the report, you may do so in writing. You will be given 20-working days (from today) to respond. After which, with or without a written response, the Draft report will then become Final, and will be published on the Office of Inspector General’s webpage. Note: This is public information. You may send a written response via regular U.S. mail, inter-departmental mail delivery, or email.

The address to send written responses via U.S. Mail:

Office of Inspector General
ATT: Tanya Lawson
3300 Forest Hill Blvd, Suite C-306
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

The 20-day expiration date is: May 24, 2019

Tanya M. Lawson
Office of Inspector General
Investigator
561-434-8511
PX 48511

Disclaimer: Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

TANYA Lawson <tanya.lawson@palmbeachschools.org> Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 10:01 AM
To: cmpanyahsa@aol.com

Thank you.

Tanya M. Lawson
Office of Inspector General
Investigator
561-434-8511

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=27e1a319b7&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1831885160607598369&dsqt=1&simpl=msg-f%3A1631...
From: DongSup, Ro  
Owner of Sempco, Inc.  
51 Lake Street  
Nashua, NH 03060

To: Lung Chiu, Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General  
3318 Forest Hill Blvd  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Subject: Response to draft report for OIG case No. 19-0001

Dear Lung Chiu:

Following are our response to the draft for OIG case #19-0001

- Despite all our efforts the bid was open May 29th but actual purchase order #2019003445 was sent via email to us on 8-6-18 date issued 8-1-18 for us to start to order large amounts of materials from overseas and receive in time to build over 4500 kit boxes and ship within 45 days was not possible by any company.

- We were given additional time to deliver to all the schools by mid-November even though we’ve asked for end of November deliveries. However, 75% delivered by the end of November and the balance of 25% were ready to be delivered to schools at our designated warehouse in Orlando, FL but school was on vacation during that time to deliver until after the school break to complete.

- We will stand by replacing any missing materials in timely manner as we’ve already done for many schools and we will continuously do so as we receive reports.

- We were never told to stop deliveries, nor did we receive letter of result of 1/23/19 board meeting until 3/25/19.
• As noted on final bid tabulation of 2018 as well as 2017 initial bids, our price to build PBCPS kits were substantially lower than the next competitor as testified by Mr. Purcell. As a result, PBCPS realized very large savings.

• We are proud of what we’ve been producing and supplying to many satisfied school districts around the country. We are disappointed that PBCPS is not happy with our service this time around but I’m confident that PBCPS teachers and students will be happy in the long run as we’ve done in 2007 to 2010 with Sempco science kit adoption. I know all PBCPS instruction division staffs were behind Sempco for supporting the least expensive curriculum implementation with high quality and detail-oriented service and instructional materials over the years. We are being unfairly treated by PBCPS. But we are hoping to improve our relationships which we’ve work very hard to build and we’ll be appreciated if PBCPS will be open to cooperate to make new curriculum work for all students at PBCPS.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dong Sup Ro
President of Sempco, Inc.