



PURCHASING BUYLINE

THE PROCUREMENT SERVICES NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Staff Promotions

Barbara Bates — Director

I was promoted to the Director of Procurement Services at the end of March. I have worked for the District for 32 years. I began working part-time in Property Control while attending high school. After graduation, I obtained a permanent position in Procurement Services as a clerk-typist. In 1998, I took a bookkeeper position to spend more time with my family. I returned back to Procurement Services in 2007 and have held several positions. I am excited to lead Procurement Services and serve the staff, students, and community. During my free time, I enjoy reading, walking, and spending time with my family and friends.

Gary Blount—Assistant Director

I was promoted to the Assistant Director of Procurement Services at the end of April. I have worked in public procurement for over 30 years, and started with the District in 2010 as a Senior Buyer. I have worked for various levels of government including the State of Georgia's Department of Administrative Services and the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my husband, and our three dogs. I am excited to work with Barbara and the entire Procurement Services team to serve the students, staff, and the community.

Daphne Farley—Purchasing Agent

I was promoted to a Purchasing Agent in May 2021. I started with the Cobb County School District in December 2016 as a Senior Buyer. Before this, I retired from Cobb County Government in 2015 with 30 years of service. My background experience is in Procurement, which included all aspects of purchasing with 12 of those years leading the department as a Purchasing Supervisor. I am excited to work with the Procurement Services team to serve staff, students, and the community. My favorite things to do outside of work are riding my bicycle on nature trails, reading a good book, and spending time with my family.

Melanie Timmerman—Senior Buyer

I was promoted from Buyer to Senior Buyer in May 2021. I have been with the District since 2006 and joined the Procurement team in March 2018 transferring over from Senior Buyer in the Food & Nutrition Dept. Prior to working in the school district, I worked in the private sector for 20+ years in the automotive/industrial equipment procurement field. I look forward to working and helping colleagues facilitate the purchasing process. In my spare time, you can find me walking my two German Shepherds, gardening or spending time swimming or hiking with my children and four granddaughters whom recently moved to the area from Jacksonville, Florida and Saucier, Mississippi.

Wendy Bell—Purchasing Agent

I was promoted to a Purchasing Agent in June 2021. I have two and half years of procurement experience, along with extensive customer service and project coordination knowledge. I received my bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in Elementary Education and earned a master's degree in Human Resource Development from Northeastern Illinois University. I worked at the Chicago Board of Trade and then the Chicago Stock Exchange as a trainer and project coordinator for over 15 years. I enjoy working with and supporting students, parents, CCSD employees, and community members. I have a strong belief in building and maintaining relationships and look forward to expanding upon my experience and talents within the Procurement Department.

Debbie Mosher—Senior Buyer

I was promoted to Senior Buyer in August 2021. I have twenty-five years of school district experience. I began my career as a school bookkeeper with CCSD. During my additional nineteen years at CCSD, I was a Support Specialist in Local School Accounting (LSA), School Financial Training Coordinator in LSA, and School Financial Training Coordinator in Financial Analysis and Training. I was a Staff Accountant with Paulding County School District for five years before returning to Cobb in 2020 as a Buyer in Procurement Services. I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to work with the great Procurement Services team and provide service to the students, teachers, and community. My favorite things to do outside work are spending time with family and friends, walking/hiking, and working in my yard.



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Staff Promotions/New Hires

Lori Franji—Buyer

I started my career with the Cobb County School District in the Food and Nutrition Department in 2007 as a Food Service Assistant at Dodgen Middle School. In 2013, I became the Food Service Manager Argyle Elementary School. In 2015, I transferred to the Maintenance Department where I performed several roles, emergency dispatcher, payroll representative, invoice processing, and was promoted to Procurement Technician. I joined Procurement Services in July 2021, as a Buyer. I am very thankful for the opportunity to become a part of the Procurement Services team and to continue my career with the Cobb County School District. I look forward to learning and growing in this department. Some of my favorite things to do are watching movies, sewing, and enjoying the fire pit in my backyard with friends and family.

Craig Beare—Buyer

I was promoted to the Buyer position in June 2021. I began working for Cobb County School District in 2016 as a school bus driver. It was a perfect fit for me as it afforded a lot of time with my family after retiring from the military. In 2019, I was selected for a warehouse associate position and provided pickup and delivery of surplus materials from schools, as well as distributing county mail, predominately in the Smyrna and Mableton areas. Prior to my employment with the CCSD, I spent 24 years on active duty with the United States Air Force and retired at the rank of Master Sergeant in May of 2014. In the military, I specialized in global logistical support of military aircraft, including C-130, F-15C, A-10 and the B-2 Stealth Bomber, and served an overseas long tour, two remote overseas short tours, and nine deployments encompassing OPERATIONS Desert Storm, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom. My military service took me (and in some cases, my family) to many places, including Georgia, Mississippi, Colorado, Missouri, Alaska, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, and Iraq. I enjoy coordinating with school staff and departmental personnel and providing procurement support to meet their needs. It is a pleasure working along side all of the seasoned professionals in Procurement Services.

Kristy Hadaway —Buyer

I was hired in September of 2021 as a Buyer in Procurement Services. Prior to coming to the Cobb County School District I worked for a Subcontractor doing Contract Administration. I attended Auburn University where I obtained a Bachelors Degree in Marketing. In the few months that I have been here, I have really enjoyed working with Procurement Services and though still learning a lot I look forward to building lasting relationships with students, staff and the community. In my spare time I like to entertain my grandson and spend time with my family and friends.

New Certification Recognitions

The National Institute for Public Procurement (NIGP) created a new professional certification for mid to senior level procurement staff members in 2020. The following staff members have earned the new NIGP-CPP and are now Certified Procurement Professionals - Jeanette Gray, Barbara Bates, Gary Blount, and Daphne Farley. Congratulations on this great accomplishment!

Supply Issues

We continue to have supply chain issues due to the pandemic and other economic problems. Below are some tips you may want to consider before placing orders to ensure you meet your budget deadlines:

Check the Contract List: Pricing for items continue to change during these difficult economic times.

Call before you place your order – Laptops, cleaning products, paper, plastic, other technology items are having longer delivery times than normal.



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Exceptions to the “Bid” Process—County/Local Funds

Purchases over \$10,000 for which the standard “bid” process cannot be utilized must fall into one of the six categories below and must be noted on your Purchase Order/Performance Contract:

1. **Sole/Single Source** – Supplies/services available from one responsible source. \$10,000 or greater must have prior approval from Procurement Services.
2. **Emergency** – Applies where delay in purchase would result in serious injury, financial or other, to CCSD. Normally only Maintenance uses this exception.
3. **Academic Prerogative** – (Do **not** use if the purchase is using Grant/Federal Funds) Academic materials/services selected at the discretion of an education professional. Can also apply to services for guest performers, instructional services or professional development.
4. **Venues, Products & Services for Student or Staff Activities** – (Do **not** use if the purchase is using Grant/Federal Funds) Including, but not limited to: field trips, homecoming, prom, graduation activities, meetings, speakers, hospitality events.
5. **Charter Buses** – (Do **not** use if the purchase is using Grant/Federal Funds) CCSD Risk Management maintains a list of pre-approved carriers for liability purposes.
6. **Professional Services** – (Do **not** use if the purchase is using Grant/Federal Funds) Services such as architectural, engineering, consultative or advisory services can be selected from a source identified as providing the expertise and availability on the particular topic at the discretion of the applicable Department Head.

Exceptions to the “Bid” Process—Federal/Grant Funds Only

Purchases over \$10,000 and **utilizing Federal/Grant funds** for which the standard “bid” process cannot be utilized must fall into one of the five categories below and must be noted on your Purchase Order/Performance Contract:

1. **Sole/Single Source** – Supplies/services available from one responsible source. Must have prior approval from Procurement Services.
2. **Emergency** – Applies where delay in purchase would result in serious injury, financial or other, to CCSD. Normally only Maintenance purchases.
3. **Small Purchase/Academic Prerogative \$10,000 - \$250,000** – Can be cited when academic materials/services are selected at the discretion of an education professional. It can also apply to guest performers, instructional services or professional development. **Federal regulations require 2 price quotes to be obtained from qualified sources. Quotations must be uploaded into Munis.**
4. **Federal Awarding Agency Approval** – If the school/department is utilizing Grant/Federal funds and wishes to purchase goods/services without the District’s standard bidding process, it must seek written approval from the granting Federal agency. **The purchasing school/department must upload documentation of the Federal written approval into Munis.**
5. **Inadequate Competition** – If a solicitation is issued by Procurement and less than two responses are received, the purchasing school/department may utilize this exception and note the solicitation number on the purchase order/performance contract.