



OUAD00-0621-0120
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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

OUA MEMO 00-0621-0120
MEMORANDUM
08 June 2021

For: **Engr. ANNABELLE R. PANGAN**
Chief, Education Facilities Division (EFD)

Subject: **CHANGE OF SCHOOL FURNITURE DESIGN FOR 2021
AND LAST MILE SCHOOLS (LMS) PROJECTS
AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

In reference to OUA Memo 00-0521-0141 dated May 20, 2021 regarding the change in the School Furniture Design for CY2021 and Last Mile School (LMS) Project and the EFD Request for Reconsideration dated May 31, 2021, the following is OUA's position vis-à-vis EFD's arguments/grounds:

EFD CONCERN	OUA REPLY
<p>The documents required for the conduct of bidding for the CY2021 School Furniture Program had been submitted to the Procurement Service following the Memorandum issued by the Assistant Secretary for Procurement giving the deadline of submission by May 30, 2021. The documents include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Authority to Conduct Approved Authority to Procure Complete Drawings and Technical Specifications Recommended Contract Duration and Terms of Payment Cost Breakdown of Estimate List of Recipient Schools 	<p>At this stage of pre-procurement activity, it is still possible to implement/ introduce changes including modifications on drawings, technical specs, contract duration, costing, and/or recipient schools.</p> <p>A Project Modification when deemed necessary can be adopted even if there will be a reduced list of recipient schools.</p>



Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)

[Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Baguio Teachers Camp (BTC), Central Security & Safety Office (CSSO)]

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<p>The increase in the cost estimate will reduced the number of recipient schools. Thus, will change all the currently approved documents by the Secretary including therecipient schools, package amount by lot and other project details. The change in the cost estimate will also affect the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) submitted for bidding. Nonetheless, the EFD is currently doing market surveys as basis for the proposed 20% increase in unit costof the school furniture.</p>	<p>An increase in the unit cost of furniture compared to the approved costing will mean a decrease in the number of recipient schools. This new costing however will not affect the Approved Budget for the contract.</p> <p>On the issue of the list of recipient schools, possible options are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using ratio of 1:45 an increase in the unit cost of furniture shall lessen the list of recipient schools 2. In consideration of the possible limited face-to-face during the pandemic, the unit cost may be increased while maintaining the list of schools as submitted to DBM that is adopting a 1:20 (or max of 25) classroom:furniture ratio in consideration of social/ physical distancing protocols. <p>Either option, the ABC will not be affected.</p>
<p>The list of recipient schools had been submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the request of Sub Allotment Release Order (SARO).</p>	<p>For purposes of procurement, we are agnostic. What has been submitted to DBM are still plans. It is still the prerogative of the end-user to finalize recipients.</p>
<p>In the COA Summary of Audit Observation and Recommendation for CY 2019, the inferiority of materials used in the school furniture was an issue thus DepEd responded that the used of plastic for school furniture will no longer be used in the design of school furniture.</p> <p>Relative to Item iv of this memorandum, the Department have already procured school chairs (armchairs) made of polypropylene plastic in previous years. The plastic armchair becomes brittle for a certain period of time especially when exposed to sun and rain.</p>	<p>To set the facts straight, the plastic chairs that are proposed are blow molded plastic components with 4mm thickness on both sides with air cushion inside the plastic. The type of chair recommended are chairs that have been used by the private sectors for years, e.g., Philippine Arena, SM Arena, Smart Araneta Coliseum. They have proven to be durable and maintenance-free. Blow molded plastic chairs cost higher but are exceptionally durable and comfortable. The polypropylene chairs DepEd purchased before were solid plastic injection chair of poor quality which became brittle over time, such were delivered as there was no detailed specification for the</p>



	<p>plastic to be used, unlike to what is being proposed at the moment.</p>
<p>The indication of low quality, poor workmanship and infestation with buk bok (wood borers) cannot be attributed to the design and specification of the approved by the agency. The low quality, poor workmanship and infestation is the result of poor contract implementation and quality control and inspection by the implementing units. The 2018 and 2019 school furniture procurement were mostly implemented by the Regional Offices wherein there are regions that procured the all wood design of learner's table and chair.</p>	<p>As had been pointed out, wooden chairs are of low quality, poor workmanship and infested with "bukbuk" (wood borers) and termites. While EFD is attributing these problems to poor implementation which has been a perennial issue, and this poor implementation problem will unfortunately continue and that is the reason why DepEd has to have a budget to replace them constantly. We are totally avoiding wood furniture primarily to eradicate these perennial problems, most especially for the Last Miles Schools which are in termite-infested areas.</p>

<p>a. Learner's Table</p>				<p>HPL specs of new furniture is higher.</p> <p>The 25x50mm is for 1200mm long table for 2 students. The 20x40mm is just for a single seater 600mm table. The two 25x500mm for 1 table becomes four 20x40mm for 2 tables.</p> <p>The 18x37mm brace is for the 1200mm table. The 20x20mm brace is for 600mm table.</p> <p>Edge banding is a better and nicer finishing. It is also more durable and not subjected to paint.</p> <p>The metal wire mesh is more durable.</p> <p>The U-frame does not serve any purpose.</p>																												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>EFD Specs</th> <th>OUA Specs</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top Board</td> <td>18mm thk (with 0.9mm thk HPL on Marine Plywood)</td> <td>18mm thk (with 1.0mm thk HPL/1-side Varnish Finish) on Marine plywood</td> <td>The HPL of OUA specs is 0.1mm thicker with 1 side varnish paint</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Main Frame</td> <td>1.00mm thk x 25mm x 50mm Steel Tubular</td> <td>1.0mm thk x 20mm x 40mm steel tubular</td> <td>The main frame in the design of EFD is larger making it more durable.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secondary Frame</td> <td>1.0mm thk x 18mm x 37mm steel tubular</td> <td>1.0mm thk x 20mm x 20mm steel tubular</td> <td>The secondary frame in the design of EFD will provide a more adequate support for the main frame because of its larger sides</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edging</td> <td>Rubberized Paint</td> <td>1.00mm thk PVC edging</td> <td>Both material are acceptable for edging with proper workmanship</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shelf</td> <td>6mm thk (w/ 0.9mm HPL) marine plywood</td> <td>Metal Wire Mesh, 4mm x 50mm x 50mm</td> <td>The shelf is made of different material. Both will serve the purpose of a shelf.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U-Frame</td> <td>10mm x 8mm x 10mm x 0.8mm (all edges of Front Cover)</td> <td>None</td> <td>The EFD design uses a U-Frame to hold the entire sides of the front cover of the table,</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	EFD Specs	OUA Specs		Remarks	Top Board	18mm thk (with 0.9mm thk HPL on Marine Plywood)	18mm thk (with 1.0mm thk HPL/1-side Varnish Finish) on Marine plywood	The HPL of OUA specs is 0.1mm thicker with 1 side varnish paint	Main Frame	1.00mm thk x 25mm x 50mm Steel Tubular	1.0mm thk x 20mm x 40mm steel tubular	The main frame in the design of EFD is larger making it more durable.	Secondary Frame	1.0mm thk x 18mm x 37mm steel tubular	1.0mm thk x 20mm x 20mm steel tubular	The secondary frame in the design of EFD will provide a more adequate support for the main frame because of its larger sides	Edging	Rubberized Paint	1.00mm thk PVC edging	Both material are acceptable for edging with proper workmanship	Shelf	6mm thk (w/ 0.9mm HPL) marine plywood	Metal Wire Mesh, 4mm x 50mm x 50mm	The shelf is made of different material. Both will serve the purpose of a shelf.	U-Frame	10mm x 8mm x 10mm x 0.8mm (all edges of Front Cover)	None	The EFD design uses a U-Frame to hold the entire sides of the front cover of the table,			
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b. Learner's Chair			
Component	EFD Specs	OUA Specs	Remarks
Seat	18mm thk (with 0.9mm thk HPL on Marine Plywood)	Injected Polypropylene Plastic with Seat Contour Design	The thickness and composition of the polypropylene plastic must be specified for evaluation purposes
Backrest	18mm thk (with 0.9mm	Injected Polypropylene	The thickness and composition of the

	thk HPL on Marine Plywood)	Plastic with Back contour Design	polypropylene plastic must be specified for evaluation purposes
Seat Support	22mm dia. BI Pipe with 1mm x 25mm Flat Bar	1.0mm x 19mm dia. BI Pipe	Diameter of BI Pipe is larger for EFD which will provide sturdier support
Leg Braces	22mm dia BI Pipe	None	The provision of leg braces will make the leg of the chair stronger

c. Teacher's Table			
Component	EFD Specs	OUA Specs	Remarks
Main Frame	0.8mm x 38mm x 38mm Steel Tubular	1.0mm x 30mm x 30mm Steel Tubular	The tubular pipe in the design of EFD is larger making it more durable
Secondary Frame	1.0mm x 25mm x 25mm Steel Tubular	1.0mm x 20mm x 20mm Steel Tubular	The frame in the design of EFD is larger providing a stronger support for the main frame
Front Cover	6mm thk (0.9mm HPL on marine plywood)	0.6mm Cold Roll Steel in Powder Coated Finish with punch hole	The 0.6mm thk sheet used in the OUA design is prone to dents when subjected to impact.
Side Cover	6mm thk (0.9mm HPL on marine plywood)	0.6mm Cold Roll Steel in Powder Coated Finish	The 0.6mm thk sheet used in the OUA design is prone to dents when subjected to impact.
Drawer	1 Drawer Box	2 Drawer Box	OUA has more drawer providing more storage space for teachers
Drawer Guide	Ball Bearing Type	Not Specified	Ball bearing type is a heavy duty drawer type rail
Edging	1mm thk PVC	2mm thk PVC	OUA edging is thicker. Both will serve the purpose with proper workmanship

The plastic chair is blow mold injection with plastic thickness of 4mm on both sides and air trapped in the middle which makes both seat and back very comfortable.

The brace is not necessary. Its removal makes the chair stackable.

To ensure strength and durability, established standard tests will be applied to sample chairs during Bid opening and evaluation. Random test will be conducted for every number of chairs delivered.

Above responses also apply to Teacher's Chair.

To ensure strength and durability, established standard tests will be applied to sample chairs during Bid opening and evaluation. Random test will be conducted for every number of chairs delivered.

The side and front table covers are not easy to dent unless with strong physical force, which when equally applied will also destroy marine plywood.

Drawer guides are ball bearing type.

2mm edging is a stronger and better protection for the table top.

To summarize and to reiterate, the following are the **specifications of the new school furniture:**

Plastic Seat and Back:

- All-weather finish made of UV protected High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)
- Blow-molded seat and back with a steel frame
- Seat dimension: 380mm width x 370mm depth
- Backrest dimension: 410mm width x 230mm height
- Stain resistant and easy to clean
- Contoured for comfort
- Indoor/outdoor use



Elementary Chair:

- Seat Height: 392mm
- Seat Depth: 380mm
- Seat Width: 370mm
- Elementary Backrest Dimension:
Backrest Height: 800mm
Backrest Width: 410mm

Secondary Chair (Senior and Junior High, including Teacher):

- Seat Height: 412mm
- Seat Depth: 380mm
- Seat Width: 370mm
- Secondary Backrest Dimension (Senior and Junior High):
Backrest Height: 800mm
Backrest Width: 410mm

Steel Frame:

- Weight capacity: 250 lbs
- Weight: 3.75 kgs
- Seat and back material: High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)
- Frame Tubing Diameter: 22mm x 1.0mm thickness
- Frame material: powder-coated steel

Model/Drawings (Reference: Attachment to OUA Memo 00-0521-0141 OUA Memo 00-0521-0141 dated May 20, 2021)

- Learner's Chair Primary: LCP-2021-5
- Learner's Chair Secondary: LCS-2021-5

Colors

- Seat: color code #ab957e
- Steel: black

Warranty

- Two Years outright replacement

Reference:

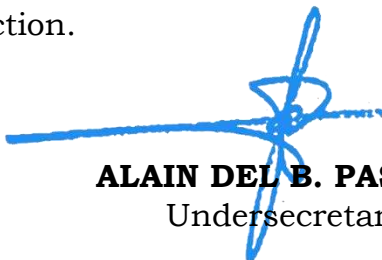

- Plastic seat and back is High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) similar to LIFETIME brand folding chairs
(<https://www.lifetime.com/lifetime-42810-folding-chair-white>)

With these final clarifications on specifications of new school furniture, the EFD is hereby instructed to immediately conduct canvass of available similar chairs in the market and finalize the cost of the new school furniture.



The procurement of the new school furniture must commence immediately within the next week. As such the final specifications and costing must be finalized within the week. The need for these is compelling as the procurement for the Last Mile Schools, which included these new school furniture, has already started.

For your appropriate and immediate action.



ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA
Undersecretary

Cf: Assistant Secretary Salvador C. Malana III
Procurement and Administration



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