## **Smart Notes**

## The K-12 Market Outlook - with Jere Smith



- With school occupancy levels down, it has allowed some capital projects to move through the construction process quicker.
- COVID has not altered the design of schools for APS, but it has caused them to upgrade their schools' cleaning process.
- Even before the pandemic, APS was moving to a virtual world. Now more than ever, it is important for vendors to take the time to understand the technology adaptation the procurement world is adopting.
- Best practices when submitting to APS:
  - Answer the question
    - Owners typically have 15 minutes to read your proposal. Better to be direct with your response
    - The interview is where firms can shine through
    - APS looks for a personal touch in RFP responses. Take the time to really understand the project and community it is in
- APS Procurement is now overseeing the selection process for professional services and that solicitations are being managed through the online tool Bonfire https://aps.bonfirehub.com/

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