



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Michael Arensdorff, Director of Technology
SUBJECT: Technology Department Back Office Tasks
DATE: April 20, 2016

Names of presenters: Michael Arensdorff

Type of report: eRate

Report format: Informational report seeking action May 9, 2017

Preview of purpose and content of report: Below and the attached documents will provide an overview of the bid process, bid summary and recommendation for the eRate proposal.

Budgetary Impact: No increase in annual operating budget with a slight decrease following the sale of the warehouse (estimated \$400-600 per month)

Data to be presented: April 26, 2017

As part of the recent eRate season we provided a wide range of options in our 470/Request for Proposal (RFP) for vendors to respond. This was done in an effort to get a grasp on the pricing structures and options for various bandwidth in a Wide Area Network (WAN), ranging 1 GB (current) up to 10 GB. In addition, we asked for responses for Internet speeds of 1GB (current), 2 GB, 5 GB and 10 GB. We also requested proposals for a two-year term and a three-year term. Following the long term planning with infrastructure needs, there were none identified for this upcoming year beyond the continuation of our WAN and Internet services. In the past, voice services were provided through eRate, however; those have been phased out and at this time, are not a service that will be supported under the program.

For this eRate season, we have reviewed proposals from five vendors: Comcast, WOW, ICN, Unite Private Networks and Zayo. We are recommending we move forward with Comcast as they have received the highest rating for their proposal in comparison of the others. We have evaluated based on cost, completeness of proposal, prior experience, service quality and technical experience. Comcast is finalizing the contract and we will be able to get it to the board prior to the board

meeting for review. Comcast will be providing a contract with the term of 24 months for both WAN and Internet. The terms of the agreement regarding speeds and the service being provided will be the same as they have been over the last three years (minus the service to the maintenance building). As part of the process, we will also be making the change of paying the monthly cost of our 50% eRate cost. Comcast will receive their additional funds from the Federal eRate program, rather than District 97 paying the full amount and receiving a 50% refund later in the school year. As part of this contract we will continue to pay for the warehouse connection month to month through September to ensure they have access, but not include the site in the 24-month contract. I have reviewed and worked on this plan with Dr. Alicia Evans as part of the planned move to the Public Works building. We will then explore more cost effective Internet solutions for our staff that will operate out of Public Works. We expect to cut the monthly expenses for this line item by \$400-600 for an estimated \$4,800-7,200 annually for each year of the two-year contract.

At the completion of this contract, our plan is to leverage current eRate options of applying for dark fiber and self-provisioning fiber through 2020. After 2020, eRate does not have any information about the coverage for these solutions and they may no longer be available under the program. In addition, our district will also be able to explore the recent grant that ISBE has announced that could cover additional costs of construction through a matching program. This has been announced to be for this current season and 2017-2018. Currently, our district is working collaboratively with the Village of Oak Park on a fiber design project that we are looking to create efficiencies for both organizations through a partnership. The future fiber option is projected to not only have positive financial outcomes moving forward with the above three options (eRate, ISBE grant and village partnership), but greatly enhance the capacity of the district infrastructure. There will be more information shared with the board in the upcoming meetings regarding this potential collaboration, along with agreements seeking approval to partnership on this project.