

Request for Approval to Contract with TRANE for Chiller Repair

TO: Woodbridge Board of Education

FROM: Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services & Operations

SUBJECT: Authorization of Chiller AFD Replacement – Exception to Competitive Negotiation

DATE: August 17, 2026

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize the replacement of both Automatic Frequency Drives (AFDs) on the District's Trane Stealth chiller through Trane's R'Newal program at an approximate cost of **\$56,000**, and approve the purchase as an exception to the District's competitive negotiation requirements under the exception for **equipment service contracts**.

Background

The District's Trane Stealth chiller utilizes two AFDs, each controlling approximately one-half of the chiller's capacity. Since August 2025, one of the drives has experienced a persistent failure, leaving the chiller operating at approximately **50% capacity**.

Since the initial failure, Trane has removed, repaired and reinstalled the affected component on multiple occasions. Reinstallation was attempted in October 2025, May 2026 and July 2026; however, each attempt resulted in the same or additional alarms and the drive remained unreliable. Following the most recent failure, Trane determined that continued refurbishment is not a reliable long-term solution and recommended replacement.

Proposed Solution

The standard cost to replace one AFD through Trane's normal parts and service process is approximately **\$70,000**, or approximately **\$140,000** to replace both drives.

Trane has worked with its factory to make available a special **R'Newal/remanufactured drive program** for the District's Stealth chiller. Through this program, **both AFDs can be replaced for approximately \$56,000 total**. The replacement drives carry a one-year warranty, equivalent to the warranty provided with the standard replacement option.

Although only one AFD has failed, both drives are approximately 12 years old. Replacing both at this time will restore the chiller to full capacity and reduce the risk that failure of the remaining original drive could result in a complete loss of cooling. The work can be performed on consecutive days, allowing one side of the chiller to remain operational during the replacement.

The proposed \$56,000 expenditure represents a savings of approximately **\$84,000 compared with the estimated \$140,000 cost of replacing both drives through Trane's standard process**, while providing a proactive solution to an ongoing equipment reliability issue.

Procurement

District purchasing procedures generally require purchases exceeding **\$10,000** to be competitively negotiated. The procedures, however, permit the Board of Education to authorize exceptions to this requirement, including for **equipment service contracts**.

Given the specialized nature of the Trane chiller and its controls, Trane's history diagnosing and servicing the existing failure, the availability of the manufacturer's R'Newal program, and the significant cost savings associated with replacing both drives through this program, the Administration recommends that the Board authorize this purchase under the equipment service contract exception.

Proposed Board Action

MOVED: That the Board of Education authorize the Administration to proceed with the replacement of both Automatic Frequency Drives on the District's Trane Stealth chiller through Trane's R'Newal program at an approximate cost of **\$56,000**, and further authorize an exception to the competitive negotiation requirement pursuant to the District's purchasing procedures for **equipment service contracts**.