



Okemos Public Schools

Media & Technology Department

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Date: 05/12/25
To: Board of Education
From: Thomas Isom
Re: Approval Request – Fiber Upgrades

As part of the 2022 bond initiative and in alignment with our commitment to reliable, secure, and scalable infrastructure, we are recommending approval for a dedicated, private fiber build to prepare for connecting the M&T Building to the new Middle School and High School. Additionally, this project includes fiber connections to Bennett Woods and Hiawatha, which are for future-proofing. This project supports the district's long-term technology goals by ensuring high-capacity, direct communication between buildings and strengthening our secondary backup network infrastructure.

Over the last few months, we requested, in writing, quotes from three of our fiber/cable vendors, companies we've previously worked with and currently use. These proposals were reviewed and compared based on technical approach, total cost, long-term maintainability, and overall reliability. The project includes both aerial and underground fiber installation, new splice cases, storage loops, removal of some outdated cabling, and the delivery of full documentation and as-builts. Importantly, this will be a fully private build, independent of any shared-use or leased infrastructure.

Project Components and Recommendation

Fiber Upgrades (Additional Fiber Run and Secondary Network)

Recommended Vendor: Challenger Technologies

Cost: \$128,582.90 – 2022 Bond Program (WAN Fiber Allocation)

Requested Contingency: 10% (\$12,858.29)

Total Funding Request: \$141,441.19

After reviewing proposals from Challenger Technologies, Pro-Tech Cabling, and ACD.net, we recommend Challenger Technologies. Their proposal offered the most comprehensive scope at a competitive cost, including 17,800 feet of aerial fiber, 1,900 feet of underground fiber, multiple splice points, and full compliance with regulatory requirements. Challenger has a strong history of successful work with Okemos Public Schools, giving us confidence in their ability to deliver a quality project on schedule and within scope.

We respectfully request Board approval for this project and the proposed funding to support a timely start and successful completion of the fiber upgrade.

Respectfully

Thomas Isom

Director of Media and Technology

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