



ROSELLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

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To: Board of Education

From: Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent & Dr. Gregory Harris, Assistant Superintendent

Re: Recommendations for Action

Date: September 22, 2020

In response to shifting needs within the school district, the recommendation is being made to approve significant purchases of materials and equipment. These items are all considered in the preparation of the FY 21 budget.

First, the district is in need of a new pickup truck. Among many other functions, this truck is vital to district operations due to its use for snow removal in the winter months. As such, timing is sensitive as we move into autumn. The district's existing Ford F250 is 11 years old and has been a regular source of problems for the maintenance department. Recent estimates for work needed on this truck in order to ensure optimal performance for the rest of the school year range from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Given the history of this vehicle's problems, an investment of this nature does not seem prudent.

A new Ford F250 outfitted with the proper mechanisms to operate as a snowplow will be in the \$39,000-\$45,000 range. Unfortunately, the state fleet contract that allows government entities to purchase vehicles below market value has not been awarded by the General Assembly due to the Covid-19 crisis. Additionally, inventory across the area is low due to manufacturing interruptions; this keeps prices up and makes it harder for the district to secure a good deal on a vehicle at this time.

The administration will seek bids in order to get the best price on a pickup truck. This process will begin right away pending the board's approval of the purchase of a new vehicle at this evening's meeting. Assuming that an area dealership will have the inventory to fill the district's order, a new truck can be secured by the end of October.

As such, the recommendation is being made for the board to approve the purchase of a new Ford F250 for up to \$45,000. This strategy has been approved by the district's attorney and will allow the administration to work through the process without having to wait for the October regular board meeting to approve an actual bid, which could lead to the district losing a vehicle that may become available at any given time. Upon the securing of a firm dollar amount, the administration will bring this action item back to the board.

On the topic of technology, the board is also being asked to approve the purchase of 59 new laptops for teachers. The lesson learned from remote learning is that an upgrade of the existing devices is necessary in order to protect the integrity of the educational experiences of those students who continue to be connecting with their teachers and classmates over Zoom meetings. These devices have a per unit cost of approximately \$1,000, with a total cost of devices being \$58,941. The district will enter into a three-year lease agreement, similar to previous lease agreements for staff and student devices. The annual cost of the lease will be \$19,191.22.

The vision of Roselle District 12 is to prepare students to ethically engage in our global society.

Finally, the administration is asking the board to approve a project that will boost the cell reception at RMS and the AO. Following an incident when the smell of natural gas was detected at RMS and students were evacuated from the building, it became apparent that the administration and staff's inability to communicate with one another created serious safety concerns. These cellular "dead zones" present at RMS and the AO will be solved with various technological materials and labor provided by Total Service Telecom, Inc. The total cost is \$28,067. This project was included in capital projects as part of a state grant.