MEMO

To: Duluth School Board

From: Douglas A. Hasler, CFO *DH*

Date: March 8, 2018

Re: Information on Campus Suite (website development)

Over the coming year, Google will no longer be supporting their current website platform. This platform provides the foundation on which our district and school websites are built. In addition, websites are subject to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and standards that our district and school websites do not currently meet.

In planning for the development of a website platform, ISD 709 District Staff evaluated a total of 13 web development vendors. Those vendors are as follows:

Campus Suite	School Messenger	Schoolpointe
School Wires	SchoolToday	School Blocks
Blackboard	School Desk	Final Site
Site Improve	eSchoolview	
Educational Networks	Edlio	

Based on our evaluation of these vendors, proposals from three web development vendors (Campus Suite, Final Site, and Site Improve) were solicited. In addition, a local technology vendor (Faster Solutions) was solicited to provide a proposal to transition our websites to the new Google Sites platform. Ultimately, Site Improve did not submit a proposal.

After review of the proposals received, we believe that both Campus Suite and Final Site would be able to meet the organizational goals for the Duluth Public Schools web transition. Both of these vendors have experience working with K-12 schools, and can provide a robust, mobile-optimized website platform, web content migration and ongoing

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support toward maintaining ADA-compliant websites. Both of these vendors provide ongoing 24/7 support for users after the website transition is complete, ongoing training opportunities and access to training materials.

Campus Suite provides us with an opportunity to completely update our websites in the future without additional fees. Fees proposed by Campus Suite would include a first year cost of $22,019.76. Fees for years two and three would be $14,603.82, and $11,908.37, respectively.

The Final Site proposal was based on pricing as follows: Setup/Year 1: $47,100; Years two through five: $29,500/year.

We also considered partnering with Faster Solutions to transition to the new Google Site platform. This platform is not as robust as that offered by Campus Suite and Final Site. Using this option would require considerable training for users to learn how to make and keep their web pages ADA-compliant. Faster Solutions is not able to provide ongoing, 24/7 support and training opportunities. Further, we would anticipate the potential need to completely update our websites in a few years, resulting in substantial web design and transition costs.

Faster Solutions proposed two options with fees of $22,600 and $17,100 respectively for transitioning the Google Site platform. In subsequent years, yearly service and support fees would be $2,500. While the total cost of the Faster Solutions proposal is less than what Campus Suite and Final Site proposed, we do not believe that this option meets our needs, especially with respect to compliance with ADA regulations.

The administration is recommending Board approval of the proposal submitted by Campus Suite. This proposal best addresses the needs of the School District, including establishing and maintaining an ADA-compliant website.

The costs for website development would be paid out of our General Fund.

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