

Approval of an RFQ with Technology for Education (TFE) for 2012 E-Rate Network Equipment

March 13, 2012

SUMMARY:

- This item requests approval of RFQ #120227 with Technology for Education (TFE) for E-Rate eligible internal connections at our E-Rate eligible 90% campuses: Gonzalez School for Young Children, Borman Elementary, Lee Elementary, Rivera Elementary, Ann Windle School for Young Children and our E-Rate eligible 80% campuses: Calhoun MS, Strickland MS, Evers Elementary, Fred Moore HS, Ginnings Elementary, Hodge Elementary, Newton Rayzor Elementary, WS Ryan Elementary, McMath MS and Lester Davis School. This means if DISD is funded by the federal E-Rate program, DISD will be responsible for only 10% or 20% of the total cost of the network equipment for these campuses. If DISD does not qualify or the E-Rate program runs out of funding before these schools are considered, then DISD is not held responsible for the purchase of this equipment.

BOARD GOAL:

VI b. Growth & ChangeCreate and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on Children, our schools and our community. **VI e. Growth & Change**Demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- none

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Denton ISD receives E-Rate funding every year for our telecommunications costs district-wide. E-Rate discounts are scaled by our Free and Reduced count. As a district, we average a 60% discount. If we apply for individual discounts per campus then our discounts are greater as noted in the summary. The top tier of the E-Rate program funds our district Verizon phone bills and our Internet costs from the LEARN network at a 60% discount. The second tier of the E-Rate program funds internal connections. We never apply as a district for tier 2 because E-Rate always runs out of money before getting to the 60% levels. We have chosen this year to apply toward the individual campuses listed above for network equipment and cabling. The schools listed above individually have higher numbers of free and reduced and receive a higher discount on equipment costs. There are 90% discount schools and 80% discount schools. This means if E-Rate selects these schools then the district would pay the 10% or 20% of the costs. This is the best way to infuse new equipment into our schools without depending on bonds to fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

- None

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- The RFQ total for all schools equipment and cabling is \$9,909,521.79, which includes equipment, engineering, project management and installation. DISD will be responsible for the 10% or 20% amount of \$ 1,357,998.43, but only if the award is given to DISD. As stated above, we are not obligated to take the award if we receive the funding.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

- Passage of this contract will insure that these campuses will receive new Cisco network equipment and cabling at little cost to the District if funded by the E-Rate program.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed.

OTHER COMMENTS:

- None

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the approval of this contract and expenditures of \$1,357,998.4 if E-Rate funds this request.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Ernie Stripling, Technology Information Officer
- Michael Bernstein, Director of Network Services

ATTACHMENT:

- Proposal from Technology for Education (TFE)
- RFQ for the District
- Costs breakdown

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____