



260 Madison Oak Park Illinois 60302 ph: 708.524.3000 fax: 708.524.3019 www.op97.org

TO: Dr. Ushma Shah, Superintendent  
FROM: Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Technology  
SUBJECT: E-rate  
DATE: February 7, 2023

**Names of presenters:** Michael Arensdorff

**Type of report:** E-rate

**Report format:** Informational report, with Q&A at board table

**Preview of purpose and content of report:** Included below is an overview of the bid process, bid summary and recommendation for the E-rate proposal

**Budgetary impact:** Impact is \$9,398 (one time cost) for renewal of firewall licenses to the technology operating budget.

From our current budget, this is a slight increase from the renewal last year of \$1,400. However, for the 2023-2024 school year we were able to drop the Internet connection at Brooks that will be a cost savings of \$450 per month. This connection will transition to the state DOIT contract that will provide 2 gb of bandwidth that will have a \$0 cost for the next five years. This will come to a total approximate savings of **\$72,600** over the next six years for the Internet connection at Brooks.

**Data to be presented:** February 7, 2023, seeking approval on February 21, 2023

## Category 2

### **Network Infrastructure Switch E-rate Proposal**

At the end of the 2022-2023 school both of our firewall licenses will be expiring. As part of the eRate process we completed bids to seek renewal licensing for the existing firewalls, as well as, proposals for two new firewall models. Upon review of the pricing and specifications, we have decided that it is most cost effective to renew the licensing at this time and upgrade the firewalls in future years when the higher capacity firewall(s) will be required with bandwidth speed requirements for D97. The renewal for both of

these firewall licenses are \$4,699 each for a total of \$9,398 for one year. There are no services that are needed as they are already in place and operational. Following the same process as above for the evaluations both Will Brackett, Paul Duda and I independently evaluated the proposals and are recommending the award to CDWG.

District 97 will seek reimbursement through the eRate program (40% discount rate, which is identified by our national free and reduced lunch numbers). I anticipate a monthly reimbursement of about **\$540** for the Internet services.

## Appendix

### **Review of 2022-2023 School Year**

#### **Category 1 - (Dedicated Internet Connection (EDI)):**

During this last year there was a six month delay in getting our new Internet service up at the district office from Crown Castle. This was due to the large amount of work/permitting that was required for Crown Castle to complete the install. During that time we remained on our Comcast connection to ensure no interruption to service for our staff/students. As shared prior the change to Crown Castle is a decrease in our monthly cost from Comcast, however during the first six months of this year we were not able to realize those cost savings due to the delay on receiving permitting and other supply chain circumstances. The rest of this year we will see a savings of approximately \$1,370 per month and for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year for a total savings of approximately **\$41,100** through the 2024-2025 school year.