



Executive Summary Board of Education Meeting

DATE: May 1, 2025

TOPIC: Palo Alto Support Contract Extension for 2025-2026

PREPARED BY: Jordan Stephen

Recommended for:

- ☒ Action
- ☒ Discussion
- ☒ Information

Purpose/Background:

Palo Alto is a company that manufactures firewall appliances for uses all over the world in many different industries. The firewall is a network security device that monitors, filters, and controls network traffic to protect against unauthorized access, cyberattacks, and malicious code, while ensuring compliance with federal and state guidelines for student internet safety. Firewalls require an annual subscription that provides access to various security subscriptions to enhance the capabilities of their firewall and other security solutions, including features like threat prevention, URL filtering, and GlobalProtect.

The last licensing purchase was approved in 2022 as part of an E-Rate funding package. At that time the contract was awarded to SHI in the amount of \$35,895 for three years of licensing and support during the 22-25 school years. This price included threat prevention, URL filtering, and GlobalProtect. Today, three years of licensing and support for the same tools will run between \$40,000 and \$50,000 depending on the vendor.

This one year extension will provide the District with an additional year of support for the firewall as well as allow the flexibility to roll the purchase of a new firewall appliance into the next cycle of E-Rate Cat 2 funding during the 25-26 school year. Hardware adjustments could also be made at that time. During our research the District used the ILTPP (Illinois Learning Technology Purchase Program) to obtain the lowest costs available for this purchase.

This product is a hardware purchase only and will not contain any student data. Therefore, there is no reason to run this by Legal Counsel. Since Palo Alto is a hardware vendor, SOPPA does not apply to this, as these items are a general commercial product and not specifically school-focused product.

Fiscal Impact:

\$15,429 - The District paid \$35,895 for licensing and support during the 22-25 school years.

Recommendation:

The Finance Committee members in attendance stated their support of the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve this SHI International Corp. quote for the purchase of one-year of support and services in the amount of \$15,429 from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.