



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: 4/18/2011

Agenda #

Staff/Administrator: Debbie Breckner/John George

Superintendent: Dan Huber-Kantola

Type of Item: ☐ Informational ☒ Action

Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?

The district would like approval to submit a grant proposal to the department of Agriculture for the RUS Grant.

Provide history/background information on your proposal.

The RUS grant is supplied for distance learning equipment and training. This opportunity would increase the district's capability to teach advanced courses district wide, as well as expand district course offerings if limited by lack of staff. At this time, the grant would supply equipment to provide video conferencing equipment at 8 locations and the infrastructure to support them. Currently, the district has a mobile video conferencing unit at each school however they are becoming outdated and the equipment the district is seeking with the RUS grant will be updated additions to the current inventory, with multiple cameras that will allow teacher and student interaction. This grant requires a 30% match of ~\$470,000 which comes to \$141,000 which the district would need to budget for the 2011-12 from the Special Revenue Technology Fund.

List the advantages of your proposal:

The District would be able to increase course offerings, particularly AP classes throughout the District in spite of declining enrollment and declining staff. It would also increase the District's flexibility in hiring staff at the high school and middle school levels. The ability to also offer expanded opportunities through virtual field trips, or other experiences would increase as well.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

Reduces the balance of the Special Revenue Technology Fund at a time when the short term budget picture is very lean.

List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?

Individual teachers could be hired to teach the courses, however in many cases, that option would be more expensive than the grant match; due in large part to ongoing personnel costs.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes ☐ No ☐