



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Technology

SUBJECT: E-rate Update

DATE: February 13, 2018

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 proposals

Budgetary impact: No impact to annual operating budget

Data to be presented: February 13, 2018

For this year's E-rate season, there are two items that we have put out to bid for District 97. The first item is a joint fiber project with the Village of Oak Park that has been communicated to the board and community over the last year. I have provided information in Friday update messages and board reports, which included the intergovernmental agreements that were signed by the District 97 Board and the Village of Oak Park Board. The second project is tied to a refresh of 261 wireless access points in our district that are end of life and can no longer be updated. Our inability to update those access points and our overall wireless infrastructure is hindering the performance capacity of all other access points in the district (total 502). By upgrading these access points, we will be able to complete updates to our system that will improve the performance of our devices and provide our staff and students with greater access to instructional materials and resources.

Broadband Fiber Project

As shared in previous reports, the Oak Park Broadband Fiber Project was a WAN project that started three years ago. At that time, District 97 had identified the need for an infrastructure expansion that would be both scalable and cost effective. We began discussing ideas and plans at our collaboration meetings with the other school districts in the area (Districts 90 and 200), as well as the Village of Oak Park, the Oak Park

Public Library and the Park District of Oak Park. During those meetings, we all discussed our plans for the future and sought ways to collaborate to enhance our infrastructure while minimizing costs for our taxpayers. As a result, the three school districts formed a consortium in order to leverage that partnership via E-rate and any other opportunities that would become available.

During this time, it became clear that the village had very similar plans for fiber projects, not only in timing but also locations. In the fall of 2016, District 97 and the village began meeting separately from the larger group to determine future steps and opportunities to collaborate. The group agreed that this made the most sense due to our common needs and size. We started planning out what this could look like and identifying all steps needed for two organizations to work together in this capacity. The process included the creation of an intergovernmental agreement (IGA), mapping our timelines, collaborating with engineering, and significant research.

In the summer of 2017, the Village of Oak Park and District 97 solicited a third-party expert, Northern Illinois University, to complete a needs assessment and executive summary for a collaborative fiber project. The assessment confirmed the need for an infrastructure expansion and determined that a collaboration would be beneficial for both entities.

In September 2017, we solicited the district's E-rate consultant to collaborate on a draft of a request for proposal (RFP). The RFP was posted in December, and we received three bids by the end of the day on February 5. Our team opened and evaluated all bids on February 5 and 6. After completing a cost analysis, our evaluation committee determined that none of the proposals met our needs in terms of being a cost-effective solution for both organizations. As a result, we are recommending that District 97 and the Village of Oak Park not award a contract at this time for the Oak Park Broadband Project.

At this time, I am recommending that we continue to work with the village and leverage the work that we have already done for this RFP as we plan for future projects. I will continue to keep the board informed on this work and the next steps as we explore them.

Wireless Access Point E-rate Proposal

As mentioned above, District 97 has also submitted a proposal via E-rate for wireless access points. This went out to vendors via E-rate on January 24, and we will receive all proposals by February 22. This work is directly connected to our technology plan and refresh cycle of access points.

District 97 currently has three different types of access points, and 261 of them are end of life (no longer supported by Cisco) and can no longer be updated. Because we cannot update the system to provide benefits to these 261 access points, we are also unable to maximize the performance of the 241 other access points. Our district operates almost entirely on wireless connections, so this affects all users. Cisco and Apple have worked very closely to optimize the wireless connection in newer versions,

so the update would allow us to improve Internet speed and provide greater access for our student and staff devices.

Although we will not be receiving all of the proposals until February 22, I wanted to provide a brief update on this project as it relates to E-rate. We will be bringing a update and recommendation to the board on March 13 for this portion of our E-rate proposal. If this project is approved by the board and awarded through E-rate Category 2, the district would be reimbursed at the rate of 40 percent of the cost, which is based on our free and reduced numbers.

I also want to emphasize that the wireless access point project, along with the fiber project, will be part of the upcoming technology plan that will be presented in April. These dollars will not be in addition to, but included in, the overall technology plan recommendation developed by the Technology Advisory Committee.