

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: January 23, 2024

NUMBER: 24-087

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Purchase Award; E-Rate

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Track 1: Operational Improvements
Initiative: Optimize Business Practices

ABSTRACT:

Board approval is required for purchases exceeding \$50,000.

ISSUE:

At issue is the E-Rate purchase award to Intellitech to provide network infrastructure equipment for the amount not to exceed \$253,250.00, with the District's obligation not to exceed \$37,987.50 contingent on E-Rate funding.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted the E-Rate Modernization order in July 2014 to assist school districts in providing internet. A five-year funding cycle for Category 2 for hardware that supports the internet began in 2021 and runs through 2025. From October through December 2023, the NWABSD went through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for Category 2 items to supplement the regional Meraki infrastructure. The improved infrastructure allows more devices to connect to the internet simultaneously and have a higher-quality network connection.

As a result of the RFP process that included a bidding matrix that weighed the cost, compatibility, technical ability, past performance, and manufacturer experience, Intellitech was awarded the bid by the NWABSD. From this process, the District submits the request for funding to USAC so the Federal Government can commit to paying 85% of the needed hardware cost to continue upgrading our Districtwide Infrastructure. USAC provides funding to improve the infrastructure of all schools in our region through Category 2 proportionate to the student count at each school. Category 2 funding is the partner to USAC's E-Rate funding that supports the internet for our District.

The District anticipates an E-Rate discount for this equipment such that the total district cost will not exceed \$37,987.50. Funds will come from the available Technology Capital Improvement Project fund balance. The District anticipates receiving the Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) from USAC later this spring. The purchase of this equipment is contingent on Board approval and the USAC funding award.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the purchase of network infrastructure equipment for the amount not to exceed \$253,250.00 with district obligation not to exceed \$37,987.50 contingent on E-Rate funding;
2. Do not approve the purchase of network infrastructure equipment for the amount not to exceed \$253,250.00 with district obligation not to exceed \$37,987.50 contingent on E-Rate funding;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the purchase of network infrastructure equipment for the amount not to exceed \$253,250.00 with district obligation not to exceed \$37,987.50 contingent on E-Rate funding as presented.