



Prospect Heights School District 23
Board Memorandum
Action/Discussion Item

Date: March 2, 2020

Subject: Network Upgrades

Prepared by: Maria Stavropoulos and Justin Heller

BACKGROUND

This memo is intended to provide a summary of our network and recommendation for upgrading one of our core switches.

Currently, the District owns a Cisco WS-C4506-E core switch that was installed about a decade ago. This switch had already been on the market for three years when we made the purchase and it aligned with the District's access points that were also Cisco. This switch has definitely proven to be an advanced and reliable unit all together as it provided us with simplified deployments, unified management of wired and wireless networks, group-based policies, and context-based analytics.

The District's technology team has been monitoring and reviewing our network and its components for replacements based on age, outdated equipment/parts, availability of parts and support for repairs. The current Cisco SW-C4506-E switch and one additional are no longer supported by the vendor, nor are parts available. Based on this information our technology team completed research for new switches and compatibility to the HPE Aruba access points the District installed in the last couple of years.

The team also took the following items into consideration. The system needs to withhold current District network and end-user demands. The system must be configured to meet District operational needs, provide expandability, consistency, improved reliability, and safety requirements.

The team leveraged the E-Rate bid filing process, and the District received one proposal for this project from SHI. Upon review of the proposal and further research of the company, we feel confident that the SHI in partnership with the installer, Aruba can meet the District's needs to fulfill this project. Upon review and evaluation of the proposal, we recommend that the District partner with SHI as the preferred vendor network upgrade of our core switch. SHI provides world-class support and service, with a proven record of success with districts of our size. SHI is currently ranked as one of the top HPE partners worldwide, with an HPE Aruba Platinum Partner ranking.

RECOMMENDATION

The Technology Team recommends that the Board approve the SHI proposal in the amount of \$27,256.72. The monies to fund these materials and labor portion of the project will come from the Technology Department's Contingency Account. About 50% of the project is eligible for reimbursement under the Federal Government's E-Rate Reimbursement Process. Once approved, the vendor can begin configuration and installation as early as April 1st, 2020.

While the total cost is anticipated at \$27,256.72, there may be some smaller optional items (cables, cable rack, wire organizers, etc.) that may be purchased through the Technology Department's Supply account, as they are not eligible for E-Rate Reimbursement. The total cost of the additional items would not exceed \$1,000.00. Funds will be allocated from the FY20 Budget.

For further details please reference the attached SHI Proposal dated February 6, 2020.