

Denton Independent School District
Chromebook Purchase
December 15, 2020

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of the purchase from Dell Marketing LP in the amount of \$2,608,000.00 for the purchase of 8,000 Chromebooks.

BOARD GOAL:

Growth & Management – Demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

During the August 3rd, 2020, Agenda Setting meeting, the Board voted to approve the Region 4 Interlocal Cooperative Purchasing Agreement as part of TEA’s Operation Connectivity program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As reported to the Board at the August 11th, 2020, regular Board meeting, the District’s participation in the Bulk Order phase of Operation Connectivity resulted in the purchase of 12,000 Dell Chromebooks which are currently at our provisioning vendor and should be rolled out at the beginning of the Spring 2021 semester. The second of the two Operation Connectivity phases is the Prior Purchase Reimbursement Program and follows different rules governing eligible purchases than the first phase did. The Bulk Order phase was handled through an ILA with Region 4 and the matching, reimbursable costs were removed prior to invoicing. The Reimbursement phase entails paying the full cost up front and receiving a reimbursement on eligible expenses with TEA covering 75% of the expense.

Eligible devices are defined by TEA as “Laptops (including Chromebooks, tablets, and hot spots) purchased (costs incurred by the LEA) on May 21, 2020, or after that and will be received by the LEA by December 30, 2020.”

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

TEA has stated that the reimbursement rate can change based on the number of requests but that they anticipate the first round coming back at exactly 75% and DISD has met the timeline requirements to be in the first round of funding.

The timeline for phase two of Operation Connectivity provided a brief window of opportunity in which the District could make any additional device purchases. The District was able to locate an available quantity of Chromebooks that would meet the delivery timeline as mandated by the TEA. The purchase order was issued on December 4, 2020 to meet both the TEA timeline for submission as well as secure the available devices that were ready for immediate delivery.

The Chromebooks were purchased from Dell Marketing LP through a Texas Local Governmental Purchasing Cooperative DIR contract. This purchase is being brought for approval in accordance with the District’s CH (local) policy.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The total cost of purchase is \$2,608,000.00. The potential reimbursement from TEA will be \$1,956,000 leaving the District’s final cost as \$652,000 to be borne from the General Fund – Fund Balance.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

Through this phase the District has an opportunity to fill in the gaps that remain in the 1:1 Chromebook deployment that we have undertaken to enable ConnectedLearning during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, these 8,000 Chromebooks will replace some of the older devices that we have in play that are no longer supported by the manufacturer and need to be removed from the District network for Cybersecurity reasons.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the purchase from Dell Marketing LP in the amount of \$2,608,000.00 for the purchase of 8,000 Chromebooks be approved.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Ernie Stripling, Chief Technology Officer
- Robert Pierce, Information Systems Officer
- Scott Niven, Chief Financial Officer
- Vicki Garcia, Executive Director of Financial Operations
- Dianna Casper, Director of Purchasing

ATTACHMENTS:

None

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____