



**Prospect Heights School District 23
Finance & Buildings and Sites Committees
Memorandum**

Date: September 30, 2022

Subject: Technology Department Updates

Prepared by: Amy McPartlin, Asst. Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Chris Alms, Director of Technology

Under the new Director of Technology, Mr. Chris Alms, the Tech Department has been reviewing both its existing and renewing contracts for services and looking to increase efficiencies where possible. In order to bring the Committees up to date, we wanted to provide an update on several services:

Granite Telecommunications, LLC

The existing 25 Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) lines have been under contract with Granite Telecommunications, LLC. Knowing that these lines need to be switched to digital, the District engaged Granite to complete an assessment and identify the active lines. Through call tests, consultation with Granite, and audits of inbound and outbound call logs, we ascertained that only the five fax lines (which are currently analog) need to be ported over. Comcast has been on site to do a site survey, with the conversion work forthcoming. We do have an updated contract with Granite for the cost of the lines. With this contract and no longer needing to pay for the other 20 lines, we anticipate a cost savings of approximately \$9,000/year.

Sentinel Technologies, Inc.

All of our digital phones are currently under contract with Sentinel Technologies. Additions to staff and “office areas” have required a correlating increase in phones and phone licenses through Sentinel. The updated licensing structure included several features and pricing options, including a master license with full voicemail capabilities on all lines. By making this transition and signing to a seven-year contract, we are able to realize an annual savings of approximately \$2,000. The contract does include all required updates to software and licensing. We are currently awaiting the updated contract back from Sentinel to reflect seven full years and a prorated year to better align us to the fiscal-year calendar.

eSchoolView (LINQ)

With the upcoming renewal of our Website Development contract this June, Chris has been evaluating options with several (7) different developers, including our current partner, eSchoolView. The Tech Department, including the District Webmasters, have visited and evaluated several sample sites, taking into consideration the following: overall appearance of the website, enhanced mobile view, and smoother, more intuitive editing tools. There are incentives with our current vendor, including a waived website redesign cost, that may be

most advantageous for the District. Following further evaluation, Chris will bring forth a recommendation for Board action.

Zeller & Assoc., Gerry Zeller

For the past several years, the District has partnered with Gerry Zeller for E-Rate consulting and support. Gerry continues to be an invaluable asset when it comes to maximizing the E-Rate opportunities and returns for District 23. He also offers consulting on updates to E-Rate and additional grant opportunities offered by the State and Federal Government. Gerry's current contract, as included, will cover Funding Year 2023 (7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024). The current listening period for suggested new items to cover is open, and Gerry keeps us updated as to what this means for us and for what we can apply. We are grateful of the Board's ongoing support of the partnership.