

HAYS CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: February 23, 2026

Agenda Item: L.2c

Board Goal: Student Achievement

Subject: Consideration and possible approval of the purchase of Network Hardware for Hays High School, Johnson High School, and Live Oak Academy – Solid IT Networks

Administrator Responsible/Position: Alan Duerr, Chief Technology Officer
Ray Gonzales, Deputy Technology Officer
Jose Parra, Senior Network Engineer

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:

Action needed Information only Receive input

B. Authority for This Action:

Local Policy: CH – Purchasing & Acquisition Law or Rule N/A

C. Goal or Need Addressed: The goal of approving the agenda item to purchase Extreme Network Switches is to provide a modern, and reliable network infrastructure that meets the current and future technological needs for students, faculty, and school operations.

D. Summary:

Previous board action relating to this item: N/A
 Future action anticipated: Pending Board approval, the Technology department will proceed with the upgrade of network switches at Hays HS, Johnson HS, and Live Oak Academy.
 Background information: The district's current network equipment is approximately 11 years old and has reached the end of its effective service life. This aging infrastructure no longer meets operational requirements, is increasingly difficult to support, and does not align with current or emerging cybersecurity standards. Upgrading to a modern network will improve reliability, strengthen security, and provide a scalable foundation to support future technologies and instructional initiatives.

E. Comments Received:

Cabinet DLT FBOC Teacher Org. Reps. Other: Technology Dept

F. Administrative Recommendation: The Administration recommends approval for purchasing Extreme Network Switches from Solid IT Networks.

Advantages and benefits of this proposal: Upgrading the network switches will enhance school connectivity, making it faster, more reliable, and more secure, while supporting digital learning and reducing IT maintenance needs. This will benefit the students, teachers, and staff. We will experience better performance efficiency and uninterrupted access to school resources.

Expected results in terms of student benefit/achievement: Approving this purchase ensures the Hays CISD will have access to a reliable network. Educators and Administrators can then focus on instruction and support of our staff/students.

Effect of this action on other parts of the system: Upgrading the network will increase performance, reliability, and security across all schools, enabling better access to digital resources for students and staff. Our wireless network can increase the amount of data it handles from the students and teachers.

Consequences of not approving this recommendation: Not approving this recommendation would require the district to continue operating on outdated network infrastructure. This would likely result in more frequent instructional and operational disruptions, increased cybersecurity risk, reduced network performance, higher maintenance and support costs, and limited capacity to effectively support digital learning, state testing, and future instructional technologies.

G. Fiscal Impact and Cost: \$842,521.31

Budget **2025 Bond:** \$344,093.92 **E-Rate:** \$498,427.39

Budget Amendment Needed

Prior Year Spending for this item/service: N/A

Bid / Contract Information: RFP #06-122501AS

Reasons for rejecting alternatives: The vendor selected, Solid IT Networks, provides the best value and performance.

Future/Ongoing: N/A

H. Monitoring and Reporting Time Line:

Person responsible for evaluating this decision or action: Alan Duerr, Jose Parra, Ray Gonzales

Evaluation method and timeline: N/A

Next report to the Board: N/A

I. Suggested Motion:

I move that the Hays CISD Board of Trustees approve the purchase of network hardware from Solid IT Networks for an amount not to exceed \$842,521.31, as presented.