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## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion: \_\_\_\_\_

Future Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Action:   X  

Item: Wireless Infrastructure Upgrade

Submitted by: Tim Lillis

Recommended by: Glen Finkel

Date: 3.8.2024

Board Meeting Date: 3.18.2024

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Kent ISD School Board approve the purchase of Ruckus Wireless Access Points from Vector Technologies for \$378,335. Furthermore, to power the new wireless access points and provide full network connectivity, it is recommended that the Kent ISD School Board approve the purchase of Cisco Network fully Powered Switches from Sentinel Technologies Inc. for \$104,809.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Wireless connectivity and Internet access is an essential need of students across all grades and programs. This upgrade will allow Kent ISD to continue to improve the security and performance our wireless network through the use of Wireless (Wifi) 7 hardware. Wireless 7 was ratified in January and brings improved connectivity for educational environments. A few of the primary benefits for upgrading our current aging wireless will be:

1. *Enhanced Connectivity:* WiFi 7 offers faster speed and self-healing connectivity, providing students and faculty with reliable internet access for online learning platforms, research, and collaborative projects.
2. *Support for Multimedia Learning:* With its high data transfer rates and reduced latency, WiFi 7 facilitates smooth streaming of multimedia content, interactive lectures, and virtual classrooms.
3. *Increased Capacity:* WiFi 7's advanced technology allows for higher device density and simultaneous connections, making it suitable for classrooms with a large number of students and faculty members using multiple devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones. This ensures that everyone can access the network without experiencing slowdowns or connectivity issues.
4. *Future Proof Infrastructure:* By adopting WiFi 7, educational institutions invest in a future-proof infrastructure capable of supporting emerging technologies and evolving educational requirements.

This project is eligible for category two E-Rate 80% reimbursement rate.