

HAYS CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: September 22, 2025

Agenda Item: J.2c

Board Goal: Student Achievement

Subject: Consideration and possible approval of the purchase of Cybersecurity Systems and Infrastructure

Administrator Responsible/Position: Alan Duerr, Chief Technology Officer
Ray Gonzales, Deputy Chief Technology Officer
Anston Shockley, Senior Buyer

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:

☒ Action needed ☐ Information only ☐ Receive input

B. Authority for This Action:

☒ Local Policy: ☐ Law or Rule ☐ N/A
CH – Purchasing and Acquisition

C. Goal or Need Addressed: The purpose of this agenda is to procure districtwide firewall infrastructure protection

D. Summary:

- ☒ **Previous board action relating to this item:** Hays CISD purchased new Firewall hardware for both data centers in 2023.
- ☒ **Future action anticipated:** Maintain a safe and secure operating environment for all data related to Hays CISD
- ☒ **Background information:** Hays CISD relies on our selected vendor as the cornerstone of IT cybersecurity program, using the platform to consolidate multiple security services into a single, integrated solution for district-wide protection. Given the critical protects provided to Hays CISD, the district is considering a 3-year renewal with the vendor to address its long-term needs, as the district is growing dramatically and is projected to double by 2035. By locking into a fixed, predictable cost, Hays CISD will be protected from price increases for the duration of the renewal term saving the district \$228,000 over the 3-year agreement paid annually

E. Comments Received:

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

F. Administrative Recommendation: The administration recommends approval of purchasing firewall infrastructure and support districtwide for 3-years paid annually.

Advantages and benefits of this proposal: The advantages of using our selected vendor's appliances for the Hays CISD, focuses on network security and compliance. The system manages all incoming and outgoing internet traffic, protecting sensitive student data by encrypting it. It also enables secure remote access for approved external users. A key feature is the web filtering application, which helps the district comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) by blocking inappropriate content. Finally, the designated systems actively monitor the network for malicious activity, automatically taking action to prevent cyberattacks and trigger alerts, ensuring a safer digital environment for the entire community.

Expected results in terms of student benefit/achievement: This will enhance the learning environment by protecting all Student/Staff data as they access the internet.

Effect of this action on other parts of the system: Without proper protection, all technical operations throughout the entire Hays CISD would be at high risk of being infected by Ransomware/Malware which would shut down all operations at Hays CISD.

Consequences of not approving this recommendation: Without proper protection, all technical operations throughout the entire Hays CISD would be at high risk of being infected by Ransomware/Malware which would shut down all operations at Hays CISD.

G. Fiscal Impact and Cost – 3-Year Total: \$882,505.64

Year One Total: \$294,168.55

☒ **Budget:** \$148,401.55

☒ **2023 Bond:** \$145,767.00

Prior Year Spending for this item/service: \$363,976.80

Bid/Contract Information: OMNIA Partners 01-143. The initial agreement is from December 1st 2022 through November 30th 2025. This contract has the option to renew for 5 additional 1-year periods through November 30th 2030. Difference between the top two companies = \$90,242.33

	Vendor	1 year	3 years
	Vendor #1	\$384,410.33	\$1,153,231.00
<i>Selected</i>	Vendor #2	\$294,976.80	\$882,505.00
	Vendor #3	\$455,494.27	\$1,366,482.81

Reasons for rejecting alternatives: The selected vendor has a strong focus on a comprehensive, integrated security posture. The value of the vendor lies in its strategic approach to security, which goes beyond a simple firewall.

Future/Ongoing: Yes, this service will be a reoccurring cost annually for the next three years.

H. Monitoring and Reporting Time Line:

Person responsible for evaluating this decision or action: Alan Duerr

Evaluation method and timeline: Ongoing evaluation on a daily basis to ensure functionality and service

Next report to the Board: September 2028

I. Suggested Motion:

I move that the Hays CISD Board of Trustees approve the procurement of firewall support and infrastructure from the selected vendor for an amount not to exceed \$882,505.64, as presented.