



## Executive Summary Facilities Committee Meeting

DATE: May 18, 2021

TOPIC: Solar Panel Grants

PREPARED BY: David Russo

### Recommended for:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

### Purpose/Background:

The District was awarded a grant of up to \$6,400 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and up to \$5,000 from the Cook County Solar School program toward the purchase and installation of a single 1kW photovoltaic solar panel system. The Administrative Team is seeking approval to accept the grants.

The Administrative Team has engaged members of the District's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Department to identify multiple points of intersection between the STEM curriculum and installation of a solar panel array. The panels are a learning tool with value at multiple grade levels. The system would be connected to the electrical grid and software allows students to track power production.

Per grant guidelines, the array must be installed facing south, with no shade, and visible to students. Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade *Magic of Electrons* class were engaged with a project to identify possible locations for a hypothetical solar array at Lincoln Hall given the aforementioned parameters. Their ideas are presented in the packet.

District Legal Counsel reviewed the Terms and Conditions from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and found those to be satisfactory as presented. On the Interagency Agreement with the Cook County Solar School Program, Legal Counsel recommended the District consult with our insurance provider regarding the levels of insurance outlined in section 5.9 through 5.9.5. Of particular note, was section 5.9.4 which requires “crime insurance or equivalent”. The District’s insurance provider confirmed we carry an equivalent coverage. Counsel concurred with our insurance provider’s recommendation that the vendor selected for the project have the following coverages: Commercial General Liability, Commercial Automobile Liability, Umbrella or Excess Liability, and Workers Compensation. The District’s insurance provider also listed Professional Liability coverage; however, Counsel indicated this is typically used by architects and engineers, not labor.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The Administrative Team engaged a vendor familiar with these grant programs who has completed multiple installations of solar panels at schools. The vendor’s representative indicated the costs of purchase and installation should not exceed grant allocations. This was congruent with information provided by the liaison from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. If approval to accept the grants is given, the Administrative team will bring a formal quote to the Committee.

**Recommendation:**

It is the Administrative recommendation that the Facilities Committee concurs to recommend to the Board of Education to accept a grant of up to \$6,400 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and up to \$5,000 from the Cook County Solar School program toward the purchase and installation of a single 1kW photovoltaic solar panel system.