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Telecommunications Modernization & Procurement Update

Purpose

To update the Board of Education on the administration's intent to update the district's aging telecommunications infrastructure through a direct, competitive quoting process.

Background and Information

An internal audit revealed that our current telecommunications contracts have expired, leaving the district on inefficient, out-of-contract rates across multiple providers (including Frontier and AT&T). Total current expenditures across all standalone lines average \$5,890.16 monthly.

Preliminary analysis indicates that transitioning to a consolidated Cloud PBX platform will drop monthly costs to approximately \$3,164.83. This shift represents a potential savings of \$2,725.33 monthly, translating to over \$32,700 in annual general fund relief. The modern platform will also integrate mobile applications, eliminating unnecessary individual cell hardware costs.

Strategic Selection Process

Per Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a)(vii)), telecommunications and data processing equipment are explicitly exempt from rigid competitive bidding and formal RFP mandates. This legal exemption allows the district to directly solicit competitive proposals and negotiate with vendors to prioritize technical reliability, modern safety features, and vendor stability over a strict lowest-price constraint.

Administrative Recommendation

The administration will secure multiple written competitive quotations this month to identify the best operational and financial fit for the district. A final contract recommendation will be presented for Board action at the June meeting.