
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion_____

Future Action_____

Action: X_____

Item: Center Program Network Switch Purchase

Submitted by: Tim Lillis

Date: 1.23.2026

Recommended by: Glen Finkel

Board Meeting Date: 2.16.2026

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Kent ISD School Board approve the bid from Sentinel for Cisco 9200 and 9300 network switches. The total cost of this purchase including installation is **\$534,022**.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this purchase is to replace the existing network switching infrastructure across the Kent ISD Center Program campus. The current network switches have reached end-of-sale status and are no longer supported for ongoing vendor availability, which has begun to impact overall network performance and efficiency.

The proposed replacement switches provide significantly higher throughput, which is critical for reducing bottlenecks and improving both wired and wireless network performance. Sentinel's bid meets the preferred equipment specifications outlined in the RFP and aligns with Kent ISD's standard Cisco platform. Sentinel is Kent ISD's preferred Cisco vendor.

While alternative bids were received, none proposed Cisco equipment. Acceptance of alternate vendors is an E-Rate requirement, which accounts for the additional submissions.

BIDS:

Vendor	Bid Type	Manufacturer	Amount
PeopleDriven*	Base Bid	Juniper	\$429,032.35
Vector*	Base Bid	Ruckus	\$464,986.13
Sentinel	Base Bid	Cisco	\$534,022.00
MOSS*	Base Bid	Juniper	\$435,477.72
MOSS*	Alternative Bid	HPE Aruba	\$583,473.37

* bid an alternative product from what was specified in the request for proposal.

Note: Our intention is to use E-rate funding for 50% of this purchase.