



CHELSEA

SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

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Memorandum

To: Michael Kapolka, Superintendent

From: Ross Potgiesser, Director of Operations

Subject: Bobcat-Toolcat Replacement

Date: February 6, 2026

Mr. Mike Kapolka,

As a part of the district's ongoing and year round efforts to keep our sidewalks clear of snow and ice we use a piece of equipment called the Toolcat. This piece of equipment more specifically is used to clear all 6.5 miles of sidewalks all winter long but also is used during our fall and spring season as well for athletic field prep and miscellaneous operations demands surrounding our campuses. This is the only piece of equipment we have that is relied upon year round and nearly every day; it is our 'swiss army knife'.

In 2016 the district purchased a used Toolcat from The University Of Michigan as a part of their 5-year replacement cycle on trade in. The toolcat purchased had already lived a hard life serving UofM for the previous 5 years. It was purchased with significant rust and body issues, it also had nearly hit its full engine hour-use according to the manufacturer (Bobcat). This piece of equipment has served its purpose with the Operations Department and CSD. Between the dates of July 1, 2023 and January 1, 2026 the district has made significant efforts on major repairs and service to this piece of equipment. Furthermore, on January 6, 2026 the Toolcat encountered a major failure in the stadium parking lot moving buckets of snow and was undrivable until further inspection. It was at this time I recommended to our administration that we retire the old piece of equipment. This piece of equipment was also prioritized in our district's fleet replacement cycle but its recent failure came sooner than anticipated and needs to be re prioritized.

I am recommending that the district proceed with retiring the old piece of equipment and purchase a new Toolcat for year round and full district use. This will ensure full continuation of district safety, upkeep and efficiency.

Utilizing Sourcewell (municipal/public purchasing cooperative) we received three bids that all came in \$67,529.40 (market price of \$84,071). The three bidders were *Bobcat of Jackson*, *Ellens Equipment*, and *Carleton Equipment*. Bobcat of Jackson was the only bidder that offered \$5,000 for our old toolcat, bringing the total cost to \$62,529.40. The total cost of this purchase will be identified in general funds.

GO BULLDOGS!!

My Best,
Ross Potgiesser
Director of Operations