

Denton Independent School District
Middle School Campus Computer Refresh Equipment Purchase
April 27, 2021

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval for the quotes received from both Dell Marketing L.P. and Delcom Group LP for the middle school campus teachers and office staff computer refresh equipment in the total amount of \$510,435.94.

BOARD GOAL:

Growth & Management – Demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

A workshop outlining Phases 1 through 5 of the desktop computer refresh program was presented to the Board on November 13, 2018. Phase 1a was approved by the Board on December 11, 2018. Phase 1b and 2b were approved by the Board on August 27, 2019. Phase 2a was approved by the Board on November 12, 2019. The elementary campus desktop computer refresh was approved by the Board on April 28, 2020.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The goals of the Technology Division's desktop computer refresh are to establish a true 5-year life-cycle refresh plan for updating teacher and staff desktop computers and desktop computer labs.

In the workshop presented to the Trustees in 2018, the plan was to refresh the teacher desktop computers as part of Phase 5 of this lifecycle refresh. In collaboration with the Business Office, it was determined that splitting the teacher refresh over a three-year period rather than a single-year rollout would help reduce the budget impact on any single year. The elementary campus equipment, including the office staff desktop computers were refreshed in June 2020. The high school campus refresh is targeted for the summer of 2022.

Before moving forward with the middle school teacher refresh, the Technology Division conducted a pilot to determine the device that middle school teachers preferred as their primary teaching device in the classroom. The two choices were:

- desktop with 24" video-conferencing monitor + Chromebook or
- 2-in-1 laptop (flip screen)

Both options are about equal in price point. In the past, the standard monitor was a 20" non-video-conferencing monitor. Due to Covid and the ConnectedLearning environment, the Technology Division decided to investigate the larger video-conferencing monitor.

Four middle schools participated in this pilot with four teachers from each campus participating:

- Ronnie Crownover MS—Science team
- Bette Myers MS—6th grade team
- Rodriguez MS—7th grade team
- McMath MS—8th grade team

Each teacher was asked to use a 2-in-1 flip screen laptop for two weeks, refraining from using their desktop during this time. During the next two weeks, they used their regular desktop with a 24" video-conferencing monitor. At the end of the four weeks, each teacher was sent a survey of 15 questions regarding their experience and asked what their preference was for their main teaching device. Of the 16 teachers who participated, 15 responded to the survey. All 15 selected the desktop with the 24" video-conferencing monitor as their preference for their primary teaching device.

Additionally, middle school principals and assistant principals will receive a laptop for off-campus meetings in addition to their desktop. Any computers that are of good quality will be re-purposed as needed within the District.

Data Summary:

Industry best practice is for machines to be on a three to five-year lifecycle. We currently purchase the five-year warranty on PCs (personal computers), making the five-year lifecycle a good option. Computers over five years of age result in impaired instructional time, increased support costs, and a significant security risk.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

This technology equipment and installation will be purchased through Texas Local Governmental Purchasing Cooperatives (DIR & TIPS) contracts. This purchase is being brought for approval in accordance with the District’s CH (local) policy.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost will be borne through the 2020-2021 technology assigned fund balance in the amount of \$510,435.94.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

The approval of this purchase will allow the District to continue supporting the 4Cs while enhancing the District’s innovative work and learning spaces, spread the cost of this plan over 5 years, and align long-term purchases with individual campus needs.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the quotes received from both Dell Marketing L.P. and Delcom Group LP for the middle school campus teachers and office staff computer refresh equipment in the total amount of \$510,435.94 be approved.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Scott Niven, Chief Financial Officer
Robert Pierce, Chief Technology Officer
Susan Cheatham, Senior Technology Services Manager
Dianna Casper, Director of Purchasing

ATTACHMENTS:

Middle School Campus Computer Refresh Purchase Locations

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____