

Denton Independent School District
Chromebook Cabinet Purchase
January 26, 2021

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of the quote from Dell Marketing LP in the amount of \$150,355.02 and Pathway Communications in the amount of \$45,830.00 for the 1:1 Chromebook cabinets for all Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade (PK-2) classrooms as well as a single, standalone cabinet for the LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex (ATC).

BOARD GOAL:

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

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

As reported to the Board at the August 11th, 2020, regular Board meeting, the District's participation in the Bulk Order phase of Operation Connectivity resulted in the purchase of 12,000 Dell Chromebooks which are currently at our provisioning vendor and should be rolled out at the beginning of the Spring 2021 semester. The second of the two Operation Connectivity phases is the Prior Purchase Reimbursement Program and follows different rules governing eligible purchases than the first phase did. The Bulk Order phase was handled through an ILA with Region 4 and the matching, reimbursable costs were removed prior to invoicing. The Reimbursement phase entails paying the full cost up front and receiving a reimbursement on eligible expenses with TEA covering 75% of the expense.

During the December 15th, 2020 Regular Board meeting, the Board voted to approve the purchase of 8,000 Chromebooks as part of Operation Connectivity Prior Purchase Reimbursement Program (PPRP) to account for machines that were already or soon to be end of life. This purchase was made with a minimum reimbursement of 75%.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

For the new 1:1 Chromebook initiative, using the Chromebooks mentioned above and our existing inventory, we will be providing a Chromebook for every student. For all secondary classrooms as well as 3rd grade through 5th grade classrooms, the students will be taking their devices home nightly and will not require storage. For K-2 classrooms (PK is configured differently, as explained in the Significant Issues section), we will need to double our capacity for storage in all those classrooms. This means adding a Chromebook cabinet to the existing cabinet in those classrooms.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

We considered removing the existing Chromebook cabinets from all secondary classrooms and having them moved to the PK-2 classrooms, but multiple factors made that the less desirable option. First, those existing Chromebook cabinets are a secure place to store the extra Chromebooks that will be necessary to make sure students always have access to a device, preventing significant interruptions in instructional time. Additionally, those existing cabinets will serve as designated charging stations in each classroom for students who were unable to charge their devices the night before. Second, the cost to move the existing cabinets varies based on the nature of the repairs that need to be done to the wall that will be damaged by the removal of heavy cabinets that are secured to walls using heavy lag bolts. Part of that repair process involves painting the repaired area. The potential variation in the cost of each repair has the potential to make it more expensive to move the existing cabinets than to purchase new cabinets.

Pre-Kindergarten classrooms will be equipped for approximately 2:1 (depending on class size); the District Curriculum & Instruction Division has determined that to be the best approach for that age group.

Some of the K-2 classrooms do not have the horizontal wall space to accommodate two Chromebook cabinets side-by-side. These 57 classrooms will need to have the existing cabinet removed so that both cabinets can be re-installed in a vertical stack.

The ATC does not have existing Chromebook cabinets but will still need to have a secure charging facility for Chromebooks. They have requested a single, standalone cabinet with individual locking bays (FUYL Tower) that will be installed in the Library.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of the Chromebook cabinets along with installation will be borne through General Fund assigned fund balance.

Vendor	Chromebook Cabinets	Chromebook Cabinet Installation
Dell Marketing LP	\$150,355.02	
Pathway Communications		\$45,830.00

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

Board approval of this purchase will provide the physically secure Chromebook storage capacity needed for the management of a 1:1 set of classroom Chromebooks in each PK-2 classroom.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the quotes from Dell Marketing LP and Pathway Communications in the total amount of \$196,185.02 for the acquisition and installation of 330 Chromebook cabinets, 1 FUYL Tower, and the additional reinstallation of 57 existing Chromebook cabinets be approved.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Robert Pierce, Chief Technology Officer
Scott Niven, Chief Financial Officer
Vicki Garcia, Executive Director of Financial Operations
Dianna Casper, Director of Purchasing

ATTACHMENTS:

None

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____