



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: January 22, 2026

TOPIC: District Purchasing Update(s)

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Recommended for:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

Purpose/Background:

This document provides the Finance Committee with an update of ongoing District renewals and/or purchases that will not require Board Approval based on criteria adopted in May 2023.

Items for Finance Committee Review:

- **Novel Effect Renewal for the 2026-2027 School Year**
 - The Todd Hall Library uses The Novel Effect app as it responds to your voice with interactive music and sound effects, creating magical moments when you read aloud from children's books.
 - The District took advantage of sale pricing during the Thanksgiving break sales to renew this subscription a couple of months early.
 - \$37.49. (On Sale!)
 - The District paid \$49 for the same services for the 24-25 school year.
- **Raptor Renewal for the 2026-2027 School Year**
 - The District uses Raptor's Visitor Management System to enhance building security by checking a visitor's ID against national databases of registered sex offenders as well as a custom list of prohibited persons and the system provides temporary badges that identify the visitor's name, date, and purpose of visit.
 - \$3,300 - The District paid \$3,125 last year for the Raptor service in 5 locations.

- **Infinite Connections, Inc. Renewal for 2026-2027 School Year**
 - Infinite Connections, Inc. has provided Lincolnwood District #74 E-Rate consultation services since 2014.
 - This is the twelfth extension to the contract and the original Agreement.
 - \$4,400 - The consultation fees are identical to the previous year.
 - Lincolnwood School District 74 paid Infinite Connections, Inc. \$4,400 for the 2025-2026 School Year.
- **Starfall Renewal for 2026-2027**
 - The Starfall.com website is used for Reading and Language Development. This website is primarily used with our EL population and places emphasis on literacy development, offering a number of activities focused on phonics, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.
 - Starfall helps the children build a solid foundation in language skills.
 - This new contract will put us back on par for this service renewing during the summer.
 - \$533 - Lincolnwood School District 74 paid Starfall \$533 in for an 18-month contract that ended in 2025.
- **Recycling and Resale Efforts**
 - In part of our recycling effort, the team investigates and works with a few recycling companies. This year we collected old access points, projectors, and other miscellaneous tech equipment. iPads that were older generations and in varying conditions ranging from good to mechanically broken.
 - Top Rite Telecom Recyclers has collected that equipment and has presented us with a check for over \$12,000 for these used devices.
- **PowerSchool Multi Year Contract Negotiations**
 - As part of our ongoing effort to reduce costs, strengthen our financial footprint, and manage inflation, our team continually explores a wide range of options.
 - Recently, I began negotiations with PowerSchool to discuss a potential long-term Agreement. If these discussions are successful and receive approval from the Finance committee, we may be able to enter into a multi-year contract spanning the next five years.
 - This Agreement could reduce our annual inflationary increases which hover around 8% to approximately 3%, saving the District close to \$24,000.
- **Internet Provider Switch from AT&T to ICN/AT&T**
 - As part of our ongoing effort to reduce costs without compromising service quality, our team continually evaluates opportunities.
 - In recent years, there has been a significant push for many school Districts to join Illinois' own internet consortium, the Illinois Century Network (ICN). The ICN has been an excellent resource for Districts seeking to bring fiber-optic connectivity into their

schools at a reduced cost—especially for rural Districts, where build-out expenses can be extremely high.

- Here in Lincolnwood, we have prided ourselves on our outstanding service through AT&T's fiber network, which has proven invaluable. Our current E-Rate contract provides this service for roughly \$1,000 per month. While joining the state network has been on our radar for some time, we now have strong reasons to move forward.
- Not only will this transition provide significantly increased bandwidth from 1GB to a 10 GB circuit, but ICN now includes Cisco Umbrella DNS security tools at no cost to participating Districts. In addition, the ICN continues to expand its suite of cybersecurity supports—partnering with CrowdStrike and others —to help Districts across Illinois better prepare for and respond to cybersecurity threats.
- Most importantly, through our recent application to the state, it was confirmed that we will continue to use our existing AT&T fiber lines, which have delivered exceptional reliability.
- This new Agreement will fully be covered by the State of Illinois, effectively eliminating our internet expenses and is projected to save the District approximately \$12,000 per year.

- **Follett Software, LLC**

- Remote Digital Genrefication Services

The District already has a long standing Agreement in place with Follett for its Destiny library management system. This particular purchase would provide Lani Maldonado with seven (7) hours of remote targeted library consulting.

- The \$720 cost would be completely covered by the Illinois State Library Grant.