
Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE:	Consider authorization of the purchase of LTE modems and related services
DATE:	May 15, 2020
RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR:	Doug Brubaker, Ph.D. Superintendent
VISION 2023 STRATEGIES:	2. Equity 3. Instruction 6. Technology

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

As the school year draws to a close, preparations continue for the return of students in August. School districts have been advised to prepare for instruction to be delivered remotely to some or all students during the 2020-2021 school year due to uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

LTE modems, sometimes referred to as “hot spots,” are used to provide Internet access through mobile networks. They are available through a variety of different service providers, and the district has the option to utilize state and cooperative purchasing contracts to procure them for student use. Currently, FSPS students are using a total of 100 hot spots provided through school-based pilot programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a high demand for these devices that is expected to increase in the near future as federal funds from the CARES Act begin to become available to school districts across the country. In order to maximize the probability that the district will have a supply of these devices for students in August, our technology procurement team recommends placing an order in May. Authorization of an initial order of up to 2,500 devices is recommended as additional survey data is collected. Estimated pricing is attached.

VISION 2023 STRATEGIES - **1. Career Planning:** Develop and implement education and career pathways so that each student graduates with a viable plan and relevant skill set for his or her future. **2. Equity:** Develop and implement a system-wide plan to provide all students with the resources they need to optimize their learning. **3. Instruction:** Design, develop and implement programs to promote rigor, relevance, collaboration, critical- thinking skills and learning environments designed to meet each student’s unique needs and aspirations. **4. Learning Environment/Facilities:** Align resources, facilities and technology strategically and equitably across the district to maximize security and enhance the learning environment. **5. Staffing:** Recruit and retain highly-qualified faculty, staff and administration. **6. Technology:** Provide appropriate technology that is consistently available, effectively supported and equitably distributed for group and individual instruction. **7. Wellness:** Develop and train empathetic and nurturing employees to be sensitive to and supportive of the needs of all children and families.

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends that the Board authorize an initial purchase of up to 2,500 LTE modems and related services to ensure that the district is better prepared to meet the needs of its students this August.

If the Board agrees, the motion would read: *move to authorize the purchase of up to 2,500 LTE modems and related services using the most cost-effective vendor and thereafter to proceed with the execution of a contract in a form approved by our legal counsel.*

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