



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Technology
SUBJECT: E-rate Update
DATE: March 13, 2018

Names of presenters: Michael Arensdorff

Type of report: E-rate

Report format: Informational report, with Q&A at board table

Preview of purpose and content of report: Included below is an overview of the bid process, bid summary and recommendation for the E-rate proposal

Budgetary impact: Impact is \$150,349 to the Technology Plan budget and no impact to annual operating budget. As this is part of our E-rate application in category 2, we are seeking a 40% reimbursement, which would bring the total expense to the district down to \$90,209. Also, exploring any revenue options by selling these units to offset the expense further.

Data to be presented: March 13, 2018

As shared in the board report on February 13, the district submitted a proposal via E-rate for a wireless access point project, which received a total of three bids. This project includes a refresh of 270 wireless access points that are end of life and can no longer be updated. This is an increase of nine access points from the February 13 board meeting, which were added after we determined the total needed for the additions at Holmes. Our inability to update those access points and our overall wireless infrastructure is hindering the performance capacity of all other access points in the district (total 502). By upgrading these access points, we will be able to complete updates to our system that will improve the performance of our devices and provide our staff and students with greater access to instructional materials and resources.

Wireless Access Point E-rate Proposal

As mentioned above, District 97 submitted a proposal via E-rate for wireless access points. This went out to vendors on January 24, and we received all proposals on February 22 deadline. We received and evaluated bids from the following vendors:

ACS, CDWG and SynerComm/Aerohive. Similar to past E-rate awards, all proposals have been reviewed and evaluated individually by three staff members. The proposals are evaluated in the following ways, in order of highest weight: cost, completeness/quality of proposal, technical experience/recommendations, familiarity with the district and service quality. Following this evaluation, our recommendation is to award the contract to CDWG, and refresh half of our fleet of Cisco access points, which are between seven and eight years in production. The access points will be allocated in the [following manner to replace the older model](#). This work is directly connected to our technology plan and refresh cycle of access points.

District 97 currently has three different types of access points, and 261 of them are end of life (no longer supported by Cisco) and can no longer be updated. Because we cannot update the system to provide benefits to these 261 access points, we are also unable to maximize the performance of the 241 other access points. Our district operates almost entirely on wireless connections, so this affects all users. Cisco and Apple have worked very closely to optimize the wireless connection in newer versions, so the update would allow us to improve Internet speed and provide greater reliability for our student and staff devices.

We plan to complete this project by updating the rest of the access points next year. Following this work, we do not expect to require another update of our wireless infrastructure (access points or controllers) for five to seven years. Additionally, this work will address the building work that is being done at Holmes and any anticipated work for Longfellow and Lincoln as the enrollments continue increase.

I also want to emphasize that the wireless access point project will be part of the upcoming technology plan that will be presented in May. These dollars will not be in addition to, but included in, the overall technology plan recommendation developed by the Technology Advisory Committee.