



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Dr. Griff Powell & Dr. Patricia Wernet, Interim Co-Superintendent

FROM: Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Technology

SUBJECT: E-rate

DATE: March 15, 2022

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 \$2,237 monthly for Internet services and \$16,344 (one time cost) for UPS/battery backups and firewall licenses to the technology operating budget.

Internet for Admin/district and Brooks for a total of \$1,350 and \$780 respectively (both are not inclusive of taxes/fees), renewal of firewall licenses at two locations at a rate of \$3,999 for each license for one year, and purchase of two UPS battery backups at a rate of \$4,182 each.

From our current budget, we are paying \$3,500 + plus taxes and fees for our Internet services each month, so the proposed amount will have a **monthly savings of \$1,370 and annual savings of \$16,440.**

Data to be presented: March 15, 2022, seeking approval on April 12, 2022

Category 1 - (Dedicated Internet Connection (EDI)):

For this eRate season we had two contracts that are up for a new contract. One is the staff network and another is our BYOD/Guest/Non-district device network. We received three bids for the requested service options from AT&T, Comcast and Crown Castle. After reviewing all proposals with the following categories: cost (highest priority), completeness, prior experience, technical expertise, and service. We had two independent evaluators review the proposals and when the totals came

up, it is recommended to award a contract the three year contract to Crown Castle at the District Office for 2 gb of bandwidth (\$1,350 per month + taxes and fees) and for the BYOD/Guest/Non-district device network of transport services to AT&T for a one year contract (\$780 per month + taxes and fees). As mentioned above this will be a monthly savings of \$1,370 from our current contract. After the one year contract we will be seeking to transition to the state DOIT project that will have zero cost (similar to our student network that we are currently using).

Category 2 -

Network Infrastructure Switch E-rate Proposal

At the end of the 2021-2022 school both of our firewall licenses will be expiring. As part of the eRate process we completed bids to seek renewal licensing for the existing firewalls, as well as, proposals for two new firewall models. Upon review of the pricing and specifications, we have decided that it is most cost effective to renew the licensing at this time and upgrade the firewalls in future years when the higher capacity firewall(s) will be required with bandwidth speed requirements for D97. The renewal for both of these firewall licenses are \$3,999 each for a total of \$7,998 for one year. There are no services that are needed as they are already in place and operational. Following the same process as above for the evaluations both Will Brackett and I independently evaluated the proposals and are recommending the award to CDWG.

We also submitted a bid for UPS battery backups. At this time we are recommending the purchase of two battery backups (one for each middle school). Due to the age of the current UPS units they are needed to ensure backup capacity is available in the event of a full or partial power outage. Once again we completed the evaluations in the same process and both Will Brackett and I are recommending the award to CDWG for two UPS battery backups for \$4,182 each for a total of \$8,364. We have not requested any services as part of this proposal, as internally we have the staff capacity to complete this work.

District 97 will seek reimbursement through the eRate program (40% discount rate, which is identified by our national free and reduced lunch numbers). I anticipate a monthly reimbursement of about **\$852** for the Internet services and approximately **\$6,000** (one-time) reimbursement for the firewall licenses (these are not fully reimbursable at the 40% rate) and UPS battery backups.