SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: March 7, 2011

Staff/Administrator: Debbie Breckner **Superintendent:** Dan Huber-Kantola

Type of Item: ☐ *Informational* ☒ *Action*

Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?

Previously, we have primarily E-Rated Priority 1 items, which are month-to-month telecommunication bills. In spending some time researching how other districts are accessing E-Rate funds, we could potentially expand the number of schools that qualify for funding. Currently, the IV area schools and Williams are the only schools that qualify for equipment. Potentially, we could expand to include 6 schools, which would add Applegate and Jerome Prairie. You may recall that E-Rate funds provides for funding for infrastructure equipment, and that equipment can be replaced every three years. Last year the Board approved investment in our network switches, with the plan that we would get to a three year replacement cycle on that equipment and it would trickle down to other schools. In December, E-Rate changed their rules, after we had already submitted our request for funding. It has been recommended that we resubmit, which we have done, rules require that we have a signed contract with a vendor by the end of March.

I am requesting approval for the Superintendent to sign the contract for equipment this month, even though funds will not be expended until next year if we are approved. Our expanded request includes the purchase of Layer 2 and 3 switches, network cabinet replacement where needed (power, wiring, UPS, patch panels, cable management), wireless access points, wireless controllers, and a new lab build out for Applegate and Evergreen. Until we put for bid, the exact cost is not known, but our initial estimate is approximately $350,000 - $500,000, although I am hopeful a bid would in lower than that. The District's exposure for those costs would be $35,000 - $50,000, which would be paid from Special Revenue Grant Funds, not the General Fund.

Provide history/background information on your proposal.

Prior to last year, most of our network equipment had not been updated or replaced in the last 15-20 years. By taking advantage of expanding our qualifying schools, we will be able to replace equipment throughout the entire district more quickly than we would have without the funding.

List the advantages of your proposal:

Advantages include a quicker replacement cycle for network infrastructure, beginning to add wireless access to schools, and a possible savings to the District if older equipment fails and requires replacement in one of the expanded schools.

List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?

The District could wait or delay the expansion, however with the age of much of the equipment, there is a possibility of failure. If it were not possible to use Special Revenue Grant Funds for the 10% of the District cost, this would be recommended to wait given the current budget situation.

Superintendent's recommendation(s): **Approve:** Yes ☐ No ☐