

Red Wing Public Schools
2451 Eagle Ridge Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066



Phone 651.385.4500

www.redwing.k12.mn.us

School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: CESO Transportation
Presenter(s): Lisa Rider, Director of Finance & Operations

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action
Board Information or Report

Background Information

Lisa Rider will review the current agreement Red Wing Public School has with CESO and the upcoming changes for the 2024-25 school year with the board.

CESO Transportation:

- Has been routing and running transportation operations since 2016.
- CESO knows the area, roads, schools, and communities and can route efficiently and effectively.
- CESO has routed for 1-tier, 2-tier, and COVID scenarios.
- CESO reviews and verifies all transportation vendor invoices to ensure accuracy compared to routes being run and to prevent overcharging.
- CESO will track non-compliance and be able to issue fines and penalties to vendors.

Pricing:

- The current overall pricing for CESO, Versatrans (routing software), and Versatrans hosting is \$5,554 per month.
- For 7/1/24-12/31/24 - The overall price for CESO and Versatrans would be \$5,857.87 per month or a 5.5% overall increase
- For 1/1/25-6/30/25 - The overall price for CESO and CESO technology would be \$5,770.83 per month or a 3.9% overall increase
- The current overall annual cost is \$66,648, for the 24-25 SY, the yearly overall price would be \$69,780.49 or a 4.7% increase
- CESO has not had an increase in operations since January 2017.
- The agreement is intended to renew annually unless notice is provided

Benefits of New Software:

- Versatrans will no longer be supported in upcoming years. Red Wing needs to find a new software that is competitively priced
- EZ Routing is cloud-based (no more hosting fees needed)
- Has a parent app included (currently, first student provides an app, but this would go away with a new vendor)
- Ability to monitor live bus routes, overlay planned vs. actual trips, estimate live bus delays and send real-time notifications.
- Notifications and bus information can be sent in multiple languages
- Can track student ridership if Red Wing wants that in the future

Recommendation

Should the board choose to take formal action on this contract:

The recommendation is to continue a contract with CESO for the above-mentioned services.