DATE: May 23, 2024
TOPIC: District Purchasing Update(s)
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Recommended for:

☐ Action

☒ Discussion

☒ Information

Purpose/Background:

This document provides the Finance Committee with an update of ongoing District renewals and/or purchases that will not require Board Approval based on criteria adopted in May 2023.

Items for Finance Committee Review:

- BrainPop for 2024-2025
    - o Brainpop subscriptions provide students and teachers with video explanations and activities for students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade and supports various languages.
    - o Teachers use BrainPOP to introduce new topics or reinforce topics dealing with math, reading and writing, science, social studies, health, and arts and technology.
    - o $9,639.00 - The District paid $9,210.16 for the same services for the 23-24 school year.

- Brightly for 2024-2026
    - o Formerly called SchoolDude, the Brightly software has been used for years to help complete, file, and review classroom work orders and maintenance requests.
    - o Brightly is also used to provide our staff with preventative maintenance schedules for mechanical equipment as well as schedule room usage throughout the district.
    - o The District is currently in a 3 year contract with the vendor. Recent conversations allowed the District to take advantage of new pricing models and continue with the next two years as a significant discount.
    - o The new pricing will save the district $5,015.81
    - o $6,785.67 - The District paid $8,594.59 for the services during the 23-24 school year.

- FastBridge Renewal for FY25
  - The FAST (Formative Assessment System for Teachers) system was developed based on research from the University of Minnesota in 2003. It includes both curriculum-based measures (for screening and progress monitoring) and computer-adaptive assessment measures (for diagnostic).
  - This tool has been used across the Township since 2018 as an evaluation to benchmark all students in reading and math and progress monitor ongoing performance for those students receiving academic support services.
  - The cost for FY25 is $7,434.07. The District paid $7,080.06 in FY24.

- Finalsite for 2024-2025
  - Finalsite, formerly Blackboard, has been used in the District to host the school District and School websites and mobile app services.
  - Finalsite, currently hosts over 5,000 school Districts in the states and around the globe.
  - The District is currently in Year 2 of a 5 year contract with Finalsite.
  - $2,429.00 - The District paid $2,249 for the services during the 23-24 school year.

- Learning A-Z Go for 2024-2025
  - The Learning A-Z Company creates many products that are used within the District.
  - Titles like Vocabulary A-Z, Raz-Kids, Reading A-Z, and Raz-Plus provide the teachers and students with resources and content to help reinforce independent reading, word recognition and vocabulary concepts.
  - Last year we enhanced many grade levels with Raz-Plus ELL specific content.
  - These products are used by hundreds of students throughout the District and provide them with lessons that seamlessly connect instruction to a current topic of study.
  - $10,638.00 - The District paid $8,992.50 for the services during the 23-24 school year.

- Newsela for 2024-2025
  - Newsela is a website that provides a range of articles on current events or relevant topics in English/language arts, science, math, and social studies.
  - Resources are presented in five different reading levels; which students can select to
  - best meet their needs. Vocabulary is adjusted to allow the information to be more accessible to students.
  - This product has been in use for many years at both Rutledge and Lincoln Hall.
  - $7,721.12 - The District paid $7,216, for the services during the 23-24 school year.

- Powerschool SIS for 2024-2025
  - PowerSchool Inc. is the provider of the District's Student Information System (SIS).
  - Powerschool houses data that can be accessed by District staff, students, and parents.
  - Powerschool's reporting engine makes it possible for the District to upload information into ISBE's Student Information System, print report cards, and keep track of day to day operations of all students.
  - $8,756.06 - The District paid $8,102.24 for the services during the 23-24 school year.

- Powerschool Enrollment for 2024-2025
    - PowerSchool Enrollment Registration is an integrated system that the District uses for online student registration.
    - Data entered by parents/guardians before the school year begins, is stored by the system, approved before the school year begins, then uploaded directly into the District's PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS).
    - $12,486.68 - The District paid $11,563.64 for the services during the 23-24 school year.

- Schoology for 2024-2025
    - Since 2015 Lincolnwood School District 74 has used the Schoology Learning Management System, a product of PowerSchool, to manage the communication and workflow between teachers, classes, and the students at Lincoln Hall.
    - The LMS links student curriculum packages as well as Google Drive files and the Powerschool information system.
    - $5,246.35 - The District paid $4,875.73 for the services during the 23-24 school year.

- SeeSaw for 2024-2025
    - Seesaw is a Learning Management System (LMS) that allows teachers at Todd Hall to create and share online activities and assignments with students and communicate with families.
    - Students use creative tools to write, draw, take pictures, and record videos in order to capture their learning and receive feedback.
    - Teachers and families at Todd Hall use the service to communicate with families during e-learning sessions.
    - $3,276 - The District paid $3,120 for the services during the 23-24 school year.

- Writable for 2024-2025
    - Writable is an online platform that provides a great deal of flexibility with regard to writing assignments.
    - Writable contains over 1,000 pre-made writing assignments in content areas including social studies, literature, and science and are customizable to fit the individual needs of all of the students.
    - Teachers also have the ability to create their own writing assignments to meet the unique needs of each of their classes while providing real-time feedback to students on their grammar and writing style
    - $3,480.84 - The District paid $3,168 for the services during the 23-24 school year.

- PLTW for 2024-2025
    - Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is the organization that creates and maintains the curriculum for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs implemented across the District.
    - The district subscribes to two programs; PLTW Gateway at the middle school, and PLTW Launch at Todd and Rutledge Hall.

- The District is assessed an annual subscription fee for each building participating.
- $2,850 - The District paid $2,850 for the services during the 23-24 school year.