



DATE: March 3, 2021

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mrs. Carmen Ghysels, Superintendent Chief Learning Officer

SUBJECT: Award Bid and Approve Contract with AMS.NET to Provide and Install Category Two Equipment under the ERATE Program

PRESENTED BY: Todd Rivera, Executive Director of Business Services

ACTION REQUESTED

Award bid and approve contract with AMS.NET to provide and install category two equipment under the ERATE program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ERATE is a federally funded program that provides discounts to schools for telecommunications and telecommunications related services (including internet). The program operates through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Each year, TTUSD submits applications to USAC to receive discounts on telecommunications services such as internet/ethernet services (known as Category I Services) and internal connections/equipment maintenance (Category II Services). The level of discount is determined by the percentage of free and reduced students at each school site. Our current level of discount is 70%. The funding is generally delivered through reimbursements or credits on our telecommunications bills. The District is required to bid all eligible telecommunications-related services/equipment if ERATE funding is requested. TTUSD advertised a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide a new network switches, wireless access points, and ancillary equipment and licenses at select sites. Each TTUSD facility has a central "core switch" that connects to our network operations center (NOC) at Truckee High School. It is from the NOC that all network connections enter the Internet. These core switches are close to the end of their life as the backbone of our network and we are able to leverage Federal ERATE funding to offset most of the cost. The district will be responsible for approximately 30% of the cost for eligible sites. This core switch replacement will provide TTUSD Cisco 9400 Catalyst switches which utilize current and next-generation network security and management protocols.

The District received four (4) RFPs and evaluated each proposal using pre-determined criteria. AMS.NET received the highest evaluation and was selected as the winning bidder. If we replaced all core switches and equipment listed in the bid, the ERATE eligible cost would be \$555,241.61 with ERATE covering 70% and \$145,232.62 in non ERATE eligible costs.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: Approximately \$311,805 from General Fund

PREPARED BY: Laura Rowe for Todd Rivera, Executive Director of Business Services

Attachment: AMS.NET Request for Proposal Submittal, Bid Evaluation Sheet, TTUSD Agreement