

FARGO BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMO #92 – 2023-24

February 27, 2024

RE: Award of Bid – E-Rate Wireless Network Equipment

FROM: Jarrod Finseth, Director of Information Technology
Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Superintendent

BOARD FOCUS: Action Required

Sealed proposals were received on February 8, 2024, for E-Rate Wireless Network Equipment. The Request For Proposal (RFP) for this bid is in association with money available from the federal E-Rate program, which would account for 50% of the total project cost. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) E-Rate program makes telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and libraries. As indicated in the RFP, Board approved contracts will be contingent upon E-Rate approval by the FCC and purchases do not need to start until July 1, 2024.

There were four vendor responses that met the criteria for the RFP. A scoring rubric was included in the RFP document to inform vendors of the scoring method used to evaluate all bids.

Scoring Rubric:

A: 30% Price

B: 25% Compatibility/Integration with existing network

C: 20% Completeness/Meeting Overall Requirements

D: 15% Vendor demonstrated ability

E: 10% Regional Vendor (within 150 miles of Fargo)

Vendor	A-30	B-25	C-20	D-15	E-10	Total
Marco	30	25	20	15	10	100
Corp Tech	22	25	20	15	10	92
Network Center	24	25	20	14	10	93
Archies Supply LLC	14	25	19	0	0	58

After reviewing the technical capabilities, the Information Technology Department recommends accepting the Marco bid of \$393,362, with a budget cost share of \$196,681.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the Marco bid in the amount of \$393,362, for network upgrades, and issue a purchase order accordingly.