Appendix 5

BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
Date: March 4, 2024

Topic: Verizon Innovative Learning Lab Grant

Background Information (History, Rationale, etc):

By leveraging state-of-the-art equipment such as augmented reality tools, robotics platforms, and immersive coding labs provided via the VIL School Lab model, we stand poised not only to elevate academic performance but foster curiosity and creativity among our diverse learner population. The benefits of pursuing this endeavor include:

- Increased Student Engagement: Interactive lessons powered by advanced tech create more engaging classroom settings where every child has opportunities to explore complex concepts hands-on.
- Enhanced Career Readiness: Exposure to emerging fields like AI, machine learning, IoT, etc., prepares students better for tomorrow's job market while nurturing critical problem-solving abilities.
- Equity and Accessibility: Closing gaps between underserved communities becomes possible when innovative solutions reach even remote areas thanks to mobile hotspots included in the lab setup.
- Professional Development Opportunities: Teachers receive comprehensive support including curriculum development assistance, ongoing coaching sessions, and workshops designed specifically around new pedagogical approaches enabled by modern edtech.

Marshall Middle School was awarded this grant in the fall of 2023. Their lab construction was completed in January 2024.