Agenda Item Summary

TO: Dr. Michael Schumacher, Superintendent
FROM: Drew Lane, Executive Director of Information and Communications Technology
SUBJECT: Authorization to Purchase Network Security Licenses from CDW-G
DATE: February 23, 2026

Recommendation: The Executive Director of Information and Communication Technology recommends purchasing network security licenses from vendor CDW-G in the amount of $2,588,423.76, with a 5% contingency to cover any unforeseen circumstances. The licenses have a 60-month term, running from April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2031. This purchase would be funded by the Capital Fund; contingent upon E-Rate funding (see "Overview" section), the District estimates that $1,805,261.39 of this expense would be E-Rate eligible, with 60% of this eligible cost reimbursed with federal E-Rate funds. This expenditure meets the goals of Strategic Plan Strategy 4 (Technology).

Overview: Network security software licenses provide real-time security features and firewalls that protects District hardware and software. The District publicly issued a Request for Proposal ("RFP") in December 2025 for network security licenses. The RFP was posted on the District's website and the national bid platform Public Purchase. As the District is seeking cost reimbursement from the federal E-Rate program, the RFP information was also shared on the E-Rate program site (listed as 470 #260009534).
The District received RFP responses from the following three vendors: CDW-G, Heartland Business Systems, and Riverside Technologies. District staff evaluated these proposals using the following criteria: the vendor's experience and qualifications; the compatibility of the vendor's proposed products with District needs; the E-Rate eligible cost/charges of the proposed solution; and the E-Rate ineligible cost/charges of the proposed solution. CDW-G had the lowest cost, highest ranked proposal.
Of CDW-G's estimated $2,588,423.76 cost, $1,805,261.39 of this expense is eligible for E-Rate reimbursement; pending E-Rate approval, the District would be able to recoup 60% of this eligible expense.
Founded in 1984 and headquartered in Vernon Hills, Illinois, CDW-G provides technology solutions to government clients throughout the United States and has provided products and services to the District for years.

Objective(s): To purchase quality network security licenses for the District.

Budget Impact: The network security licenses would have a 60-month term commencing on April 1, 2026, and running through March 31, 2031) in the amount $2,588,423.76, with a 5% contingency to cover any unforeseen circumstances. This purchase would be funded by the Capital Fund; contingent upon E-Rate funding (see "Overview" section), the District estimates that $1,805,261.39 of this expense would be E-Rate eligible, with 60% of this eligible cost reimbursed with federal E-Rate funds.

Strategic Plan Pillars: Strategic Plan Strategy 4 (Technology).