Unified School District 261

Phone 316-554-2203
Fax: 316-554-2230
1745 West Grand Aveune
Haysville, Kansas 67060

David Herbert
Director of Information Services
dherbert@usd261.com

District Fiber Optic Project

In January, the Information Services Department resubmitted its proposal for a high-speed broadband fiber optic network between district buildings to USAC, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). USAC is the agency that administrates the E-Rate program, which provides funding to schools and libraries for technology equipment and connections.

During this time, the USAC was making changes to the requirements associated with applicants requesting fiber optic connections. This includes, but not limited to, seeking bids and gathering information for all types of fiber connects, including lit leased fiber optic service, dark fiber optic service, and self-provisioned fiber construction. In an effort to provide the most cost effective solution for the district and USAC (the district's E-Rate funding level is 80%), it has been determined that dark fiber optic service is the better solution for the school district at this time. Dark fiber service is a service provided by a company that delivers fiber optic cabling from building A to building B and then leases this fiber cable to its customers. Dark fiber service is a new service that is now part of the bidding requirements for successful USAC funding on all fiber proposals.

Last year, the Board of Education approved a contract for a proposed self-provision fiber project. Both self-provision fiber and dark fiber service proposals require a construction or upfront cost. The main difference between these two proposals is one is district owned and the other is not. There are recurring costs associated with both of these proposals. Self-provision fiber recurring costs include, but not limited to, pole rights, locating service, and repair of cut/broken fiber. Dark fiber service has a recurring monthly lease associated with it. In the end, the projected recurring cost of the dark fiber service was approximately 33% less than the recurring cost for the self-provision fiber based upon a 10 year cost comparison.

I am requesting the Board of Education approve a contract for dark fiber service, for the E-Rate Funding Year 2017-2018, to Zayo Group in the amount of $275,285.25, contingent on USAC funding.

Contact me if you have any questions.

David Herbert
Director of Information Services
Haysville Public Schools