

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

**DECISION ON**

**Data Center Core Network Upgrade**

**June 27, 2016**

Background Information:

The Purchasing Department, on behalf of the Office of Technology, requests a decision by the Board for a contract award to Skyline Technology Solutions, located at 6956-F Aviation Blvd, Glen Bernie, MD 21061, in the amount of \$195,474.95 for the purchase of Extreme core network switches with installation and integration services.

The basis for the cost of the products is via piggybacking a contract established by the University System of Maryland MEEC (Maryland Education Enterprise Consortium) contract for Network Hardware USM – MEEC UB-12-B-19-S1, awarded to Skyline Network Engineering, LLC, doing business as Skyline Technology Solutions.

Discussion:

The Office of Technology is requesting this acquisition to refresh antiquated enterprise class switches which create the core of the HCPS network within the district's data center. The current switches are 11 years old; are not capable of handling the increased bandwidth upgrade occurring in early FY17 to a 10G Internet circuit; and have experienced full device failure rendering a complete Internet outage for the entire organization. Given the reliance on the Internet for daily instruction and operational needs, along with mandated, high stakes assessments, four "9s" of reliability in core network components is essential. Four "9s" refers to the percent of availability or 99.99% uptime. This equates to 52.56 minutes of downtime per year or 8.66 seconds per day. To achieve this high availability, two identical switches will be installed to provide fail-over redundancy.

Skyline is a network integration firm and an authorized reseller of Extreme Network products.

Funding for this contract is from FY 16 operation account.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the contract to Skyline Technology Solutions, in the amount of \$194,474.95.