

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON

PALO ALTO FIREWALLS

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 Burnie, MD 21061, in the amount of \$322,896.00 for the purchase of Palo Alto next generation firewall appliances 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 under-sized firewalls utilized to protect HCPS network infrastructure. The existing firewalls are not capable of handling the increased bandwidth upgrade occurring in early FY17 to a 10G Internet circuit. Additionally, the current Internet content filter(s) cannot handle the bandwidth upgrade also. To simplify design and save funding, the decision was made to upgrade the current firewalls to a next generation firewall technology which can also handle content filtering. The savings realized by collapsing the firewall and filtering onto a single platform will be approximately \$500K. The architecture is designed to firewall and filter within a single appliance; however, two identical appliances will be installed to provide redundant, high availability uptime.

Skyline is a network integration firm and an authorized reseller of Palo Alto 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 \$322,896.00.