

To: Board of Education

From: Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent of leading, learning & technology
Kevin Harrell, executive director of student support services/special education
David Cunningham, executive director of human resources/chief legal counsel
Kathy Johnson, executive director of finance

Re: PowerSchool

Date: September 21, 2017

Background:

Board of Education Goals:

2015-16 V. Deliver quality programs and services.

1. Continue to enhance business and operations processes through integrated software management systems

2016-17 IV. Expand communication and community connections through increased engagement.

1. Evaluate district technology communication systems (e.g. Microsoft Office, Outlook, Google, SharePoint, Skyward, etc.) with consideration of modifications and enhancements.

A. Form stakeholder group of Skyward users to gather feedback/input on use of Skyward, needs and possible enhancements.

B. Investigate Skyward for alignment to district needs.

Members of the Superintendent's Leadership Team were instructed to report to the Board the progress made on these goals and a recommendation related to the integration of software management systems to better meet district needs, enhance efficiencies and improve the user experience for teachers, students and parents.

Rationale:

Staff have evaluated district information management and technology needs, the advantages and disadvantages of existing software systems in use in the district and the capabilities of other K-12 educational and informational technology systems.

In April of 2017, the district surveyed teachers about their use of and needs related to a learning management system (LMS). Teachers reported that their top five LMS needs are:

- Ability to upload content
- Organize material
- Deliver content to any device, anywhere
- Ability to upload multimedia forms
- Ease of use

Other LMS needs reported include the ability to embed media, a mobile app, student-teacher communication, students' ability to download assignments and see their progress, formative assessments, integration with the student information system, readily available support, anytime connection – video, voice and text, and Cloud sharing.

The district hosted PowerSchool demonstrations for teachers, principals, administrators and support staff. Users found that PowerSchool has the potential to streamline school processes by moving from a variety of individual systems to a single platform to drive school operations, student achievement and parent involvement. It is an integrated solution that includes: school district management, online registration, learning management, assessment management, special education case management and incorporates learning standards, student performance, grading and attendance, while providing mobile solutions to empower and engage students and increase parent engagement. Its functionality could mean less time wasted moving among applications, less data corrupted among applications and a streamlined, easier and more user-friendly way of delivering education and information.

PowerSchool is the leading provider of integrated technology systems to schools. The company works with 80% of the school districts in Kansas. Its clients include 13,000 districts in 70 countries, serving 32 million students, 66 million parents and two million teachers. PowerSchool's suite of solutions — student information system, registration, special education, assessment and learning management system — brings all of the information and tools teachers and students need to manage instruction and collaboration in one unified platform. It has the potential to improve learning effectiveness and eliminate time wasted and risk to district compliance caused by using multiple systems. PowerSchool has created a differentiated K-12 unified classroom platform, providing an easy-to-use, engaging and comprehensive solution for all teaching and personalized learning needs inside and outside of the classroom.

In evaluating PowerSchool, the administration found that the system has the potential to replace Skyward (student information system), Blackboard (learning management system), SEAS (special education IEP system), the Data Warehouse, Career Cruising and Destiny (library management). In addition, PowerSchool integrates with several other technology systems currently in use in the district, including BPlus (Human Resources and Financial software system), Google Suite, Outlook (email), E-Funds for Schools (school fee payment), Parchment (student transcripts) and SchoolMessenger (automated notification system).

Purchasing PowerSchool is estimated to be budget neutral and eventually produce additional savings by eliminating pieces and parts already purchased or others the district plans to purchase. From an initial review, Finance Executive Director Kathy Johnson, estimates the district spends \$274,000 on the core platforms that would be replaced, not inclusive of some of the smaller interfaces the district maintains for the existing programs that eventually will also be eliminated costs.

The initial bid from PowerSchool is: \$333,993.97 (\$464,339.95 discounted by \$130,345.98 (28%))

	Power School	Current Systems
Products (on going)	202,405	274,000*
Savings		(71,595)
Implementation Costs (one time)		
Power School Set up	91,989	0
Training Services	39,600	0
Implementation Costs (one time)	131,589	
Overall Cost comparison w/ Implementation	\$333,994	\$274,000
Net Change in Cost with Implementation	59,994	
Ongoing Annual Fees		\$211,343

**Blackboard Learning Management, Viewpoint Data warehouse, SEAS Special Education, Skyward Student Information System.*

Motion:

"I move the Board of Education approve moving ahead with PowerSchool implementation of a new Student Information System at the estimated cost of \$333,994"