

To: Board of Education

From: Keith Wilson, principal, Lawrence Virtual School, ext. 5620

Re: Purchase of Laptop Computers – Lawrence Virtual School

Date: March 17, 2016

Background:

Since opening in 2004, Lawrence Virtual School (LVS) has made technology equipment available to its enrolled families in grades K-12 for the purpose of enabling students to complete online work in their homes. Our goal is to provide families with warranted computers whenever possible so that when issues arise, school downtime is minimized. LVS policy for computer check-out is as follows:

- Grades K-5: One computer for one to three full-time students in a family (families of 4 full time K-5 students can check out two computers, etc.) (Caveat: Special education students can check out computers on a one-to-one basis)
- Grades 6-12: One computer for each full-time student

LVS loans technology equipment on a one-to-one basis for grades 6-12 because students' online time is greatly increased from the K-5 online requirements. Special education students utilize other programs through LVS that require more online time for grades K-5.

With each computer purchase from Dell, LVS requests warranties to increase the life of the computers. By purchasing three years of Pro Support and Accidental Damage warranties, computers can be maintained by Dell's third party techs directly in the families' homes within 24 hours of the trouble call. These warranties greatly reduce the downtime associated with computer issues, thus enhancing student success within our program.

Families request computers from LVS by submitting a Computer Request Form and signing an Agreement for Use of Instructional Property which outlines the legal terms for borrowing district technology. This year, LVS loaned technology equipment to 70% of its enrollment of 1,126 students (or 78% of its computer-eligible population of 1,011). LVS currently has 789 computers in the homes of its students across the state. Of those 789 computers in our families' homes, 254 computers are out of warranty and are four or more years old. When a computer is not working and out of warranty in the home, the only option for that student is to swap the computer with another out of warranty machine or, if we have some in stock, a warranted machine. Currently, our inventory of warranted computers available to send as a replacement is limited due to the increase in computer check-out requests. The ship time for these computers is two to four days using UPS, meaning the students are unable to utilize the programs from home, or they must travel to other locations to complete school work (e.g. library, friend's or relative's home, etc.), thus, making it difficult for students to remain timely with assignments.

LVS out-of-warranty computers became useful to the program when, instead of checking them out to families, they were utilized for state assessment sessions held across the state. However, now that these non-warranted computers have been in the homes and returned not working, they are no longer suitable to support state assessments. Out of warranty computers are returned due to malfunction and breakage which cannot be managed in the field. LVS utilizes 130 computers during state assessments across the state. Currently, LVS has 196 non-warranted computers in stock. These computers have been replaced for families and are not repairable and will be recycled using the district recycle process.

LVS looks forward to replacing non-warranted computers in our families' homes with warranted computers and restocking our state assessment computers to support state-mandated testing.

Rationale:

The district has sponsored the Lawrence Virtual School over the past eleven years with computer purchases. LVS requires the replacement of non-warranted computers for families' use to reduce student performance downtime due to breakage and equipment failure. LVS currently supports 254 non-warranted computers in the field which will need to be replaced as soon as breakage and failure occur. LVS currently has the potential for loaning 1,011 computers to those eligible students and families according to LVS policy; however, only 78% of those eligible have requested computer loans. LVS also utilizes un-warranted computers for state assessments across the state; however, if these un-warranted computers are in homes across the state, LVS's support for state-mandated testing becomes limited.

Recommendation:

Administration recommends board approval for the purchase of 300 Dell Latitude 3450 laptop computers (\$670.85 each) at a total cost of \$201,255 from Capital Outlay Fund 0910000035-57360.

Motion:

"I move the Board of Education approve a purchase contract for 300 Dell Latitude 3450 laptop computers at a total cost of \$201,255."