

To: Board of Education

From: Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, innovation & technology, ext. 2755

Re: Purchase of Kajeet Hotspots

Date: September 8, 2016

Background:

As part of the Learning Forward, Future Ready 1:1 Initiative, which seeks to provide equitable access to technology for all students, USD 497 has provided iPads to all middle school students and is currently piloting MacBooks and iPads with approximately 650 high school students. For the 2015-2016 school year, the district purchased 20 Kajeet hotspots to pilot at the high schools. These devices are checked out through the Library Media Centers and enable students without Internet access to work with digital curricula after school hours. Both schools reported a waiting list, and a district survey of middle and high school students completed in May 2016 indicated that approximately 400 families do not have Internet access in the home.

Rationale:

In order to bridge this digital gap and ensure continued access to digital curricula in the home, the district purchased 100 Kajeet hotspots for the 2016-2017 school year and was awarded a Lawrence Schools Foundation grant of \$39,000 to fund an additional 200 hotspots. Kajeet hotspots are unique in that they provide Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliant mobile connectivity and are a sole source vendor, as such, no other vendor can bid on the purchase. These 200 Kajeet hotspots, divided among the secondary schools, will provide connectivity for middle and high school students who do not have Internet access in the home.

Recommendation:

Administration recommends board approval for the purchase of 200 Kajeet hotspots, from Kajeet, for the district to continue to provide equitable access to technology for all students. The cost of this purchase is \$38,997.27 to be paid from the Learning Forward, Future Ready Initiative Lawrence Schools Foundation grant.

Motion:

"I move the Board of Education approve the purchase of 200 Kajeet hotspots, from Kajeet, in the amount of \$38,997.27."