

To: Board of Education

From: Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, leading, learning & technology, ext. 2755  
Kirsten Wondra, assistant director, learning & technology, ext. 2622  
Jennifer Fessenden, supervisor, technology support, ext. 2201

Re: Kajeet hotspot service renewal

Date: September 7, 2017

Background:

In May 2016, and in anticipation of the 2016-17 rollout of 1:1 iPads in the middle schools and 1:1 iPad and MacBook Pilot Program at the high schools, the District surveyed families of LPS students to ascertain how many students lacked internet access in the home. The results indicated approximately 400 families lacked internet connectivity.

To bridge this 'digital divide' and ensure equitable access to technology (Board of Education Goal I), the District initially purchased 20 Kajeet hotspots to pilot. This was overwhelmingly successful with students and staff, so the Board approved the purchase of an additional 100 hotspots in September 2016. A Lawrence Schools Foundation grant allowed for the purchase of an additional 200 hotspots; a DCCF grant enabled the purchase of another 29; and the District purchased an additional 20 Kajeet hotspots for a total of 349 internet hotspots in the secondary schools. All purchases include 9 months of internet service.

Rationale:

These CIPA-compliant, mobile hotspots are available for check out in the school Library Media Centers and enable students without internet in the home to access digital curricula and stay consistently engaged in their learning. In order to continue ensuring equitable internet access to students, a 9-month service renewal is necessary.

Recommendation:

administration recommends the renewal of 9-month internet service, from Kajeet, to 349 Kajeet hotspots at the cost of \$63,200.06 to be paid from the General Fund – IT Technology (0110050000-55300).

Motion:

"I move that the Board of Education approve renewal of 9-month internet service, from Kajeet, to 349 Kajeet hotspots at the cost of \$63,200.06."