



# **SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT**

**DATE:** January 17, 2019  
**FROM:** Denise Juneau, Superintendent  
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**For Introduction:** February 27, 2019

**For Action:** March 13, 2019

## **1. TITLE**

BTA IV: Approve purchase of Fortinet network firewall equipment, software, and five-year support with Xiologix, LLC in the amount \$1,718,555.55.

## **2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Board action is for the review and approval for a network firewall replacement with Xiologix, LLC for Fortinet network firewall equipment, software, and support.

## **3. RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to execute a five-year contract with Xiologix to provide support and Fortinet firewall equipment and software, for a total Not-To-Exceed (NTE) amount of \$1,718,555.55 plus applicable Washington state taxes.

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- a. **Background** – The Seattle Public Schools (SPS) firewall was upgraded in 2011. A firewall is a network security system that monitors and controls incoming and outgoing network traffic based on predetermined security rules. The changes in technology and the escalation of cyber threats since then are making it harder to protect the district from cyber-attacks and keep our data, staff, and students safe. Upgrading the firewall to a newer next-generation platform will allow us to better protect against malware, virus, and cyber threats that happen every day. The firewall was identified to receive an upgrade/replacement as part of the BTA IV Capital Levy approved in February 2016 and is part of the comprehensive 2019-2023 Technology Plan.

In February 2018, SPS issued a Request for Proposal 02849 (RFP) to secure a new system that meets the future technology needs. The winning bid of \$1,718,555.55 from Xiologic, a value-added reseller, includes four Fortinet enterprise class firewalls and annual software and support and cloud services to manage cyber threats for five years. This full amount is within the BTA IV security budget planned to fund this needed upgrade. This firewall is part of a planned upgrade during Summer when schools are out to minimize disruption and to have technology staff available. The district has also

applied for a Universal Service Schools and Libraries Program (E-Rate) discount of up to \$272,004.54 which is like a grant that would be applied back to the capital budget if awarded.

- b. Alternatives** – We can decide not to upgrade our firewall. This option would mean outdated hardware will stay in use, resulting in a higher probability of security breaches and threats to staff and students.
- c. Research** – Network Operations held vendor conferences and conducted web research prior to creating the RFP which helped identify what was needed in a new generation firewall.

Gartner, a leading information technology research and advisory firm, rates Fortinet in the top of the Market Leaders in its Magic Quadrant, stating “Surveyed customers have highlighted competitive price for performance as one of the strongest reasons to shortlist the vendor, along with support for multiple features that other leading firewall vendors offer at higher cost.”

**5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

The fiscal impact to this action will be \$1,718,555.55 plus applicable Washington state taxes from the BTA IV budget that covers all hardware, software, and support for a five-year period. This is under the \$2M budgeted for this project.

The revenue source for this motion is Capital Levy Buildings, Technology and Academics (BTA IV) Metropolitan Area Network Modernization and Expansion (Y05310000T).

Expenditure:  One-time  Annual  Multi-Year  N/A

Revenue:  One-time  Annual  Multi-Year  N/A

**6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

With guidance from the District’s Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

Initially, the upgrade was part of engagement for the BTA IV Levy. This proposed upgrade was discussed at the December 17, 2019 Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting with the committee getting the chance to review the report and offer feedback. Additionally, the committee was able to view a presentation by the district’s Information

Security Manager, April Mardock who reviewed the RFP process and provided insight into how the current district firewall helps to protect students and staff from threats and the benefits of an updated service. The district's community engagement tool kit was applied to this proposed upgrade with Tier 2: Consult/Inform being the most applicable level of engagement identified.

**7. EQUITY ANALYSIS**

Initially the upgrade was part of the Equity Analysis for the BTA IV Levy decision making. The firewall is a central piece of equipment that all internet and intranet traffic has to travel through. Every user has the same route to the internet regardless of what school they are in, yet the firewall treats every user separately to meet their individual needs. Configuration lets staff monitor and adjust bandwidth to meet the needs of staff and students.

**8. STUDENT BENEFIT**

Students will have better protection from malware and virus threats along with faster routing, inspection, speed with Quality of Service (QoS) controls. Students will have the access they need for internet and internal resources in a secure environment. Upgrading this summer will provide technicians to have this upgraded solution in place for start of the 2019-2020 school year.

**9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY**

Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)

Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)

Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy

Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract

Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter

Board Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. POLICY IMPLICATION**

Per Policy No. 6220, Procurement, any contract over \$250,000 must be brought before the Board for approval.

**11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

This motion was discussed at the Operations Committee meeting on February 7, 2019. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved the item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for consideration.

**12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon approval of this motion, the vendor will start working with the district to plan the upgrade to the district equipment. The project is expected to be completed by the Start of School FY 2019-20.

**13. ATTACHMENTS**

- Not Applicable