Memo

To: Appleton Public Library Board of Trustees

From: Alex Niemi and Tasha Saecker

Date: 2/20/2024

Re: E-Rate Vendor Approval

E-rate is a federal reimbursement program for public libraries and schools that funds wiring and equipment for public Internet connectivity. Our reimbursement rate is 60%, based on the free and reduced lunch numbers in our community. We will save approximately $283,000 thanks to e-rate.

We did two e-rate processes this year for the new building, one focused on data wiring and the other on networking equipment. We worked with a consultant, Ben Sniecinski from E-Rate Advantage, who helped with the filings of federal forms, building of the RFPs, and rating the vendors. The bids closed in January. We received three bids for each of the processes.

We have selected Heartland Business Systems as the vendor for the networking equipment and Faith Technologies as the vendor for the data wiring. They were selected based on price, understanding of needs, prior experience with e-rate, personnel qualifications, and prior experience with the library or city.

We would appreciate your approval for the formal selection of Heartland Business Systems for equipment and Faith Technologies for cabling.