AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Create Positive, Inclusive Learning Environments, and Maximize Outcomes for Students

DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, September 11, 2018

AGENDA ITEM:

SUBJECT: Tenders Over the Summer – Facilities Projects

1.0   Background

1.1   At the June 26, 2018 Board meeting, authority was delegated to Administration to proceed with tenders over the summer period for Facilities projects and to report back to the Board at its next regular meeting. It was also noted, at that time, that if unexpected problems arose over the summer leading to the requirement for additional work on existing projects, as had happened in the past, email communication would be used to advise Trustees.

2.0   Facilities Projects

2.1   **Early Years Addition at Exeter Elementary School**

2.1.1   While we had thought that we might get the Exeter Early Years addition out to tender and closed over the summer, we were overly optimistic on the timing and were not able to get a tender released.

2.1.2   The municipality required that we initiate a site plan application, and they would undertake a review, which is ongoing as this report is being written.

2.1.3   It will be later this fall before we are able to close a tender for the Exeter Early Years addition.

3.0   IT Project

3.1   **Microsoft Software Licensing – Bundling**

3.1.1   In the email communication to Trustees on Tuesday July 31, we notified Trustees of a renewal purchase over $100,000 for Microsoft software licensing, offered apologies regarding communication, and committed to reporting this information to Trustees in the usual "Tenders Over the Summer" Information Report at the first Board meeting in September.

3.1.2   This year, there was a change in how we purchased Microsoft software applications and services renewals, moving from an individual application/ service approach to a bundled solution from the same supplier (Softchoice).

3.1.3   This bundled solution covers a large range of software services including Azure (MS Cloud services), Windows 10 (operating system), Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, SQL Server and Active Directory CALs), Power BI and other current subscription SKUs (including Skype for Business, Minecraft in the Classroom).

Engage, Inspire, Innovate … Always Learning

3.1.4   We were able to access this bundled opportunity by using the buying group offering through the Education Computing Network of Ontario (ECNO) which represents all school boards in the province and their computing needs and interests. ECNO's collective strength means that they can negotiate real savings for school boards and develop more tools for the classroom.

3.1.5   It's the total value of this bundled approach, at over the $100,000 threshold, which triggered the requirement for Trustee notification.

3.1.6   The annual expense for everything noted above is $119,535.45.

3.1.7   For comparison purposes, the IT only purchases (versus Curriculum and schools' purchases) would have previously totalled approximately $121,832.00.

3.1.8   By consolidating and bundling all our software purchases, we are able to achieve more offerings at a slightly lower cost, as well as support the Ministry's goal of utilizing cooperative purchasing opportunities whenever possible.

Janet Baird-Jackson
Superintendent of Corporate Services

Dr. Lisa Walsh
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board