

## Recommendation:

This year, we are using some of our available E-rate funds to purchase some network infrastructure equipment. E-rate pays sixty percent of the total cost of the items listed. We are responsible for the other forty percent. E-rate runs on a five year schedule and we have a fixed amount to spend within that time otherwise we lose it. We are near the end of the current cycle and still have most of our funding available.

The equipment items we are purchasing will be replacing our core switch at the high school as well as the core at the elementary school. Additionally, we are adding four wireless access points to key areas in the district.

The existing core switches are currently seven years old. They run 24/7/365. They are being replaced due to age and capability. Anything in the data closet that has been running nonstop for over five years should be looked at in terms of replacement just so that critical piece of equipment does not fail. Our equipment still functions but they carry a much heavier load today than when they were installed and are now slow in comparison. The warranty for the HPE-Aruba switches is five years past the 'end of sale' date for that device.

We are adding higher capacity wireless access points to our environment to plug some gaps in coverage. The newer access points are more capable and use the newer and faster wireless protocols the industry is moving towards. Our existing APs are starting to age. The main reasons to replace APs are because of age, features, and capacity. With age comes the risk that the radios will stop working. The older APs are also not upgradable to current wireless protocols and features making it necessary to replace our AP fleet in the coming years in order to keep up with the equipment that is connecting to them. The Meraki APs are covered with a maintenance warranty subscription that is required to use the APs. It is a lifetime warranty so long as we are current on the maintenance agreements. By default, we purchase maintenance coverage for five years but can add to that as we go.

Pricing for the equipment will be pricing at the time of sale although I've rarely seen changes to pricing once we receive a quote. Routing and switching equipment rarely goes 'on sale' unless they are trying to clear inventory due to the current product going 'end of sale' and being replaced with something else.

Pricing for installation is included in the bid. The amount shown is for a project of larger scope than what we opted for. We are purchasing the full amount because we use Heartland service block hours for many things and a sixty percent discount through E-rate makes sense.

We published our E-rate bid for thirty days. Only Heartland Business Systems responded to the bid. SHI asked questions but ultimately did not respond.

[Heartland Quote](#) - only requesting marked items on the quote

[Project Cost](#)