BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Dan A. Sims, Superintendent

ACTION MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Public Education for Bibb County ("Board")
Dr. Dan A. Sims, Superintendent

From: Kevin Adams, Chief Information Officer
Joshua Moneypenny, Director of Technology

Subject: Firewall Upgrades

Summary

The Office of Technology Services is seeking Board approval to issue a purchase order to Lockstep Technology Group for Palo Alto firewall products and services.

Background

Maintaining a robust and reliable cybersecurity posture is vital for safeguarding our District's digital learning environment, protecting sensitive student and staff data, and ensuring continuous classroom connectivity. Our current pair of Palo Alto firewalls is now over five years old, placing them at the end of their optimal operational lifecycle and leaving the District increasingly vulnerable to sophisticated, modern cyber threats that legacy hardware simply cannot intercept. Upgrading to a new pair of next-generation Palo Alto firewalls—fully bundled with a comprehensive five-year software and support subscription—is a critical infrastructure investment. This upgrade will not only ensure compliance with federal data privacy standards and e-Rate safety requirements, but it will also grant our IT team continuous access to real-time threat intelligence, automated malware prevention, and direct manufacturer technical support, securing our District's network for the next half-decade.

This purchase is made utilizing GA State Contract 99999-SPD-SPD0000219-0010.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Bibb County Board of Education authorizes the purchase order to Lockstep Technology Group in an amount of $695,144.10. The funding source is 2026 ESPLOST.

Superintendent's Comments and Approval

Superintendent's Signature	Approved / Not Approved
Dr. Dan A. Sims	Approved