



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: July 23, 2026

TOPIC: District Purchasing Update

PREPARED BY: David Russo, Dominick Lupo, Jordan Stephen

Recommended for:

- ☒ Action
- ☒ Discussion
- ☒ Information

Purpose/Background:

This document provides the Finance Committee with an update of ongoing District renewals and/or purchases that will not require Board Approval based on criteria adopted in May 2023.

Items for Finance Committee Review:

- **Heartland School Systems Meal Viewer Renewal for 2026-2027**
 - The District uses the Meal Viewer product from Heartland School Systems to create an online menu system for families to view.
 - This product is being used by the Food Services department and providing information to students and families in all three schools in the District.
 - \$1,716 - The District paid \$1,635 for the same services for the 25-26 school year.
- **Heartland School Systems Mosaic Back Of Office Renewal for 2026-2027**
 - The District uses the Mosaic product from Heartland School Systems for management and cost control by tracking product expenses and projecting future meals.
 - This product is being used by the Food Services department for reporting, nutrient analysis and provides information on production quantities
 - \$2,364 - The District paid \$2,250 for the same services for the 25-26 school year.

- **Early Childhood Alliance Membership for 2026-2027**

- The Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) of Niles Township is a collaboration of over 45 organizations: center-based care providers, family child care providers, home visiting programs, school Districts, early intervention providers, village governments, health agencies, social service agencies, and individuals focused on enhancing the outcomes of every young child in the Niles Township community.
- The organization connects families to resources, promoting high quality early childhood services, and lifting up families with young children to ensure that all children reach their full potential. In the past, the District has referred families to the ECA for assistance securing support for early childhood needs, as well as translation services.
- The District originally approved a \$2,000 contribution to the ECA in FY25 and is committing the same amount (\$2,000) in Fiscal Year 2027.

- **Flocabulary Renewal for 2026-2027**

- Flocabulary is a digital tool designed for delivering interactive content, and provides access to almost 1000 standards-aligned K-12 lessons and supporting activities.
- Flocabulary provides songs, videos and activities for K-12 online learning and research-based activities to teach content knowledge and build literacy skills.
- \$3,808 - The District paid \$3,696 for the same services for the 24-25 school year.

- **Newsela for 2026-2027**

- Newsela is a website that provides a range of articles on current events or relevant topics in English/language arts, science, math, and social studies.
- Resources are presented in five different reading levels; which students can select to best meet their needs. Vocabulary is adjusted to allow the information to be more accessible to students.
- This product has been in use for many years at both Rutledge and Lincoln Hall.
- \$8,400 - The District paid \$8,000 for the services during the 25-26 school year.

- **MealMagic Point of Sale Renewal for 2026-2027**

- The District uses the MealMagic product as our POS (Point of Sale) software that keeps track of lunch and all cafeteria transactions in all buildings.
- This product is being used by the Food Services department for meal reporting.
- Meal Magic interfaces with student data systems via a simple API-based data exchange, ensuring information stays current.
- The department was able to evaluate usage after the first year in operation and reduce the numbers of licensing for financial savings.
- \$3,495 - The District paid \$4,395 for the same services for the 25-26 school year.

- **BrightArrow for 2026-2027**

- BrightArrow is a mass notification system that also integrates into PowerSchool and used by the District to send email, phone, and text message notifications and emergency alerts to parents, guardians, and staff.
- BrightArrow also offers automation capabilities, and includes support for over 120 languages, which can be beneficial for communication needs.
- This product is currently in its 3rd year of use at Lincolnwood District #74.
- \$3,875 - The District paid \$3,673 for the services during the 25-26 school year.

- **SuperEval for 2026-2027**

- SuperEval is the software used for the Superintendent's evaluation.
- The tool allows the Superintendent to set goals and upload documents relevant to their performance and accomplishments.
- Board Members have the opportunity to rate and provide feedback in a broad range of performance areas.
- The District will pay \$3,226 for this subscription and paid \$3,841 last year.