

Greg Martin, Director of Technology
Administration Service Center
28W250 St. Charles Road
West Chicago, IL 6018
(630) 876-7800
www.benjamin25.org



TO: Board of Education
Dr. McGill
FROM: Greg Martin, Director of Technology
DATE: June 2, 2026
RE: Server Infrastructure Refresh Recommendation

BACKGROUND

The district's current server infrastructure is approaching the end of its expected five-year lifecycle and was scheduled for replacement during Summer 2026 as part of the established technology replacement plan. This lifecycle approach ensures that critical systems remain reliable, supported, and capable of meeting operational demands.

Under normal conditions, the replacement process includes obtaining a budgetary quote, securing Board approval, and then proceeding with procurement, planning, and implementation. Typically, a single quote is sufficient to support this process, with minor updates if necessary prior to purchase.

Current market conditions have significantly disrupted this process. Ongoing supply constraints and rising global demand, particularly for AI data center expansion, have led to limited hardware availability and substantial price volatility. Due to these market conditions, the Board previously authorized us during the May 11, 2026, Board of Education meeting to proceed with the server refresh project once a suitable and cost-effective solution could be identified within the budget up to an amount of \$260,000.

To maintain continuity of operations and accommodate the long lead times on hardware procurement, support on the existing server infrastructure has been extended through March 2027.

SUMMARY

Following extensive evaluation of available options and considerable work with Xentegra and hardware manufacturers, the district has identified a server infrastructure solution that meets the district's performance, reliability, and support requirements. The proposed solution includes the necessary server hardware and implementation services to replace the district's existing infrastructure.

The total cost of the proposed solution is **\$201,529**. This cost is within the approved proposal presented in May and aligns with the district's established five-year server replacement cycle. The proposed solution will provide a supported platform for the district's critical systems and position the district to meet operational needs for the next five years.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

The administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the district proceeding with the server infrastructure refresh project, based on the latest quote of \$201,529. This approval will ensure the replacement of critical infrastructure prior to March 2027 and maintain system reliability and support for district operations.