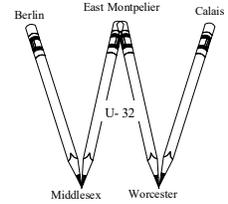


Washington Central Unified Union School District

WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.

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Bryan M. Olkowski
Superintendent



TO: House Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Lori T. Bibeau, WCUUSD Business Administrator
RE: State-wide Financial Software Bid
DATE: March 17, 2021

I served as a VASBO representative on the committee for the State Financial Software bid during 2017/2018.

- When the bid specifications were being developed, the legislation for state-wide financial software was optional NOT required.
- **Per the previous testimony, VASBO supports the legislation reverting back to being “voluntary”.**

Here is more justification for making the software VOLUNTARY:

- I collected information about the various software products used by school districts and learned that 84% of school districts used a Tyler software product. The Tyler software needed to be enhanced to conform to the Uniform Chart of Accounts. For various reasons, 16% of the school districts were interested in changing software companies.
- Prior the execution of the E-Finance software contract with Powerschool, I put together information which demonstrated the additional cost associated with requiring 100% of schools convert to new software versus only 16%.
- I shared the information that the Powerschool bid did not compare to the Tyler bid because there would be additional conversion costs not included in their bid.
- Using the information I collected, the bid appeared to be off over 21,000 hours for a state-wide conversion. On average VASBO membership needed 425 hours of vendor support to convert software and the E-finance bid only provided 65 hours per SU/SD. Therefore, the original contract was short over 21,000 hours of vendor conversion time.
- A second discrepancy was how much time SU/SDs need to convert to new software, The VASBO survey showed local school budgets needed an average of 1761 hours to convert so there would be a huge savings by allowing districts to stay on the Tyler software and not convert to a new system.

- Schools would typically consider local conversion costs in comparing bids, however the state bid process did not allow for “trueing” up the bid to compare apples to apples. This meant that Powerschool became the low bidder instead of Tyler.

E-finance Cost versus savings

- At this time, the Bid/Contract for E-finance has resulted in multiple “change orders” which increased the cost.
- Some of the change orders appear to be for features that were included in the bid specifications and should have been in the base contract.
- For example, the bid specifications included common financial reports, bank reconciliations, unlimited training & support for conversion.
- At this time, it is unclear how much the E-finance software actually costs and IF there are any savings.
- For example, the Agency of Education is adding staff and school districts are also paying extra staffing costs.
- Several districts are operating and paying for multiple financial systems to complete daily work.
- Although districts began converting to the new software in 2018, many basic software features are not functioning yet.

Please call me if you have further questions. I can be reached at 802-272-6438.

Please make the legislation change for the utilization of E-Finance to be VOLUNTARY NOT MANDATORY.