To: Board of Education

From: Jerri Kemble, assistant superintendent, leading, learning & technology
                Keith Wilson, director, virtual education

RE: Purchase of Laptop Computers – Lawrence Virtual School

Date: January 4, 2018

Background:
Since opening in 2004, Lawrence Virtual School has made technology equipment available to our enrolled families in grades K-12 for the purpose of enabling students to complete online work in their homes. Our goal is to provide families with warrantied computers whenever possible so that when issues arise, school down time is minimized. LVS policy for computer check-out is as follows:

- Grades K-5: One computer for one to three full time students in a family (families of 4 full time K-5 students can check out two computers, etc.) (Caveat: Special Education students can check out computers on a one-to-one basis)
- Grades 6-12: One computer for each full time student

LVS loans technology equipment on a one-to-one basis for 6-12th grades and Special Education because students' online time is greatly increased from the K-5 online requirements.

With each computer purchase from Dell, LVS requests warranties to increase the life of the computers. By purchasing three years of Pro Support and Accidental Damage warranties, computers can be maintained by Dell's 3rd party techs directly in the families' homes within 24 hours of the trouble call. These warranties greatly reduce the down time associated with computer issues, thus enhancing student success within our program.

Families request computers from LVS by submitting a Computer Request Form and signing an Agreement for Use of Instructional Property which outlines the terms for borrowing District technology. This year, LVS loaned technology equipment to over 65% of its enrollment. LVS currently has over 760 computers in the homes of our students across the State. Of those 760 computers in our families' homes, 400 computers are out of warranty and are three or more years old. When a computer is not working and out of warranty in the home, the only option for that student is to swap the computer with another out of warranty machine or, if we have some in stock, a warrantied machine. Currently, our inventory of warrantied computers available to send as a replacement is limited because we strive to equip the families with warrantied technology. The ship time for these computers is 2-4 days using UPS, meaning the students are unable to utilize the programs from home, or they must travel to other locations to do school (e.g. library, friend's or relative's home, etc.), thus, making it difficult for students to remain timely with assignments.

LVS out of warranty computers become useful to the program when, instead of checking them out to families, they are utilized for State Assessment sessions held across the State.

LVS looks forward to replacing non-warrantied computers in our families' homes with warrantied computers and restocking our State Assessment computers to support State-mandated testing.

Rationale:
USD 497 has sponsored the Lawrence Virtual School over the past thirteen years with computer purchases. LVS requires the replacement of non-warrantied computers for families' use to reduce student performance downtime due to breakage and equipment failure. LVS currently supports over 400 non-warrantied computers in the field which will need to be replaced as soon as breakage and/or failure occur. LVS also utilizes non-warrantied computers for State Assessments across the State.

LVS asks the School Board's approval to purchase 125 three-year warrantied Dell Latitude 5580 laptop computers at a per unit cost of $860 for a total of $107,500 from LVS General Fund 1810000035-57360.

Recommendation:
Administration recommends board approval for the purchase of 125 Dell Latitude 5580 laptop computers ($860 each with three years of Pro Support and Accidental Damage warranties) at a total cost of $107,500.00 from LVS General Fund #1810000035-57360.

Motion:
"I move the Board of Education approve the purchase of 125 warrantied Dell Latitude 5580 laptop computers at a total cost of $107,500."