

**APPENDIX A****Contract Awards Provided for Information (contracts over \$50,000 and up to \$175,000)**

#	User/Budget Holder School/Department	Products/Services Details	Ward	Recommended Supplier	Low Bid/ Highest Score	Objections	# of Bids Rec'd	Estimated Annual Amount	Projected Start/End Date of Contract	Customer Involvement
1	IT Services	Splunk Licensing and Support Renewal  AS21-123P  See Appendix 'D'	N/A	Softchoice	Yes	No	3	111,692	February 2021/ January 2022	IT Services

## APPENDIX B

### Contracts Requiring Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee Approval (contracts over \$175,000 and up to \$250,000)

#	User/Budget Holder School/Department	Products/Services Details	Ward	Recommended Supplier	Low Bid/ Highest Score	Objections	# of Bids Rec'd	Estimated Annual Amount	Projected Start/End Date of Contract	Customer Involvement
1	Special Education	<b>Boardmaker 7 Software</b>  <b>SAM21-201SSF</b> See Appendix 'E'	N/A	Tobii-Dynavox LLC	N/A	No	Sole Source	\$70,000	May 2021/ April 2024	IT Services  Special Education  Purchasing Services
2	Special Education	<b>Lexia Reading Programs Software</b>  <b>SAM21-225SSF</b> See Appendix 'F'	N/A	Greenfield Learning	N/A	No	Sole Source	\$82,666	April 2021/ March 2024	IT Services  Special Education  Purchasing Services

## APPENDIX C

### Contracts Requiring Board Approval (contracts over \$250,000 and Consulting Services over \$50,000)

#	User/Budget Holder School/Department	Products/Services Details	Ward	Recommended Supplier	Low Bid/ Highest Score	Objections	# of Bids Rec'd	Estimated Annual Amount	Projected Start/End Date of Contract	Customer Involvement
1	IT Services	<b>Veritas Netbackup Software – New and Renewal Licenses</b>  OECM 2018-318-03  See Appendix 'G'	N/A	TeraMach	Yes	No	N/A	\$314,300	March 2021/ May 2025	IT Services
2	Distribution Centre	<b>Office Supplies Products</b>  Products to be provided as and when required to replenish inventory at the Distribution Centre. Product examples include folders, envelopes, clips, staples, post-it- notes, binders, labels, etc.  <b>SS21-006P</b>	N/A	Office Central  Canadian Education Warehouse  Novexco – Hamster Inc.  Supreme Learning  Corporate Express o/a Staples Advantage  Brault & Bouthillier (B&B Education)  Baldwin School Supply	Yes	No	9	\$422,800  \$44,551  \$114,174  \$45,193  \$457,249  \$13,352  \$201,475	March 2021/ February 2025	Distribution Centre  Purchasing Services
3	Special Education and Inclusion	<b>STAR Online Learning System</b> STAR Program for on-line learning for students with special needs.  See Appendix 'H'	N/A	STAR Autism Support	N/A	No	Sole Source	\$122,220	February 2021/ June 30, 2024	Special Education and Inclusion
4	Distribution Centre	<b>Promotional Products</b>  TDSB branded products to be provided as and when required to replenish inventory at the Distribution Centre. Product examples include pens, folders, mugs, re-usable water bottles, etc.	N/A	Corporate Express o/a Staples Advantage  ROI Marketing	N/A	No	3	\$55,097  8,765	March 2021/ July 2025	Distribution Centre  Purchasing Services

#	User/Budget Holder School/Department	Products/Services Details	Ward	Recommended Supplier	Low Bid/ Highest Score	Objections	# of Bids Rec'd	Estimated Annual Amount	Projected Start/End Date of Contract	Customer Involvement
		SS21-003P (OECM #2020-346)								
5	All Schools	<b>Combination Padlocks with Tracking Tools</b> Padlocks for student use with their lockers. Cost recovered from parents/students. <b>SM21-086P</b>	N/A	BG Distribution	Yes	No	6	\$124,693	March 2021/ February 2024	Purchasing Services

**BRIEFING NOTE**

**Date** 24 February 2021

**To** Finance, Budget & Enrolment Committee

**From** Peter Singh, Executive Officer, Information Technology and Information Management

**Subject** **Splunk Licensing and Support Renewal**

**Purpose** Splunk is an analytics and management solution currently being used by the IT Services department. It continually monitors mission critical components of our IT infrastructure such as servers (including Exchange email), databases, storage and network applications. It allows IT Services staff to identify and prevent service disruptions to these critical components, while also minimizing the time to restore service when outages do occur. Splunk applies advanced machine learning intelligence to data ingested from various IT monitoring sources within the Board to provide predictive analytics and alert management in a single unified dashboard. Licensing and support for this solution is required to be renewed on an annual basis.

**Strategic Direction** • Allocate human and financial resources strategically to support student needs.

## BRIEFING NOTE

**Date** 24 February 2021

**To** Finance, Budget & Enrolment Committee

**From** Angela Nardi-Adessa, System Superintendent – Special Education and Inclusion

Andrew Gold, Associate Director – Leadership, Learning and School Improvement

**Subject** **Boardmaker 7 Software**

**Purpose** Boardmaker is assistive technology software. It is used by the Special Education department to allow instructors to create interactive and engaging activities for their students. Boardmaker Studio has been in use at the TDSB for several years and was licensed board wide in April 2016. The vendor has released a new version of the product called Boardmaker 7 which requires the purchase of new licensing which is sold on a subscription basis. Under this licensing model, teachers will be setup with Boardmaker online accounts, which will allow them to successfully logon and run the software. Licensed teachers will be permitted to install and use the software on an unlimited number of devices, which will enable them to use the software from home on personal computers. The teaching side of the new Boardmaker software will work on the Windows, MAC and Chrome Operating Systems, while the student portion of the software will work across Windows, MAC, Chrome and iOS.

Boardmaker specifically supports students with developmental and physical disabilities, while addressing behaviour and communication needs. It can also be used with students who are learning English as a second language or in the early stages of literacy development. Boardmaker allows educators to create visual resources that help students with communication, self-regulation and transitions. Interactive activities allow students to practice skills, demonstrate their knowledge and understanding and complete tasks independently, as the activities can include built-in visual and auditory supports. Boardmaker works with accessibility devices such as switches. Boardmaker 7 also includes access to additional resources, such as Reading Avenue which can be used with emergent readers.

Boardmaker addresses the unique needs of Special Education by supporting students with developmental and physical disabilities. There are no competing products that can currently match its overall functionality. Tobii-Dynavox LLC is the sole distributor of the Boardmaker software.

It is recommended that Tobii-Dynavox be awarded a three year contract to supply Boardmaker software to the Board for a total cost of just under \$210,000. This contract will license 1500 educators for a period of three years. Each educator will be able to roster up to 10 Special Education students. The new subscription licensing model will allow for a more predictable annual spend for the software and a more targeted approach for its use and distribution.

- Strategic Direction**
- Allocate human and financial resources strategically to support student needs.

## BRIEFING NOTE

**Date** 24 February 2021

**To** Finance, Budget & Enrolment Committee

**From** Angela Nardi-Adessa, System Superintendent – Special Education and Inclusion  
Andrew Gold, Associate Director – Leadership, Learning and School Improvement

**Subject** **Lexia Reading Programs Software**

**Purpose** Lexia Reading programs (Lexia Reading Core 5 for K-5 and Lexia PowerUp for 6-12) are blended, individualized reading intervention programs. These two programs are purchased together and are already used by a growing number of TDSB schools to support students with special education needs. The Special Education department would like to make a centralized purchase of these applications for students who are reading below their grade's expected reading level and require systematic and explicit instruction in the different skill areas of reading. Each application has an on line component, through which the program provides adaptive, individualized reading instruction to students at their own reading level. This is combined with supplementary lessons provided by teachers to students. Students can log into the program on any web-enabled device, providing flexibility to support students who are learning in a virtual environment.

Greenfield Learning is the sole authorized representative of Lexia Learning Systems LLC products and services. The Ministry of Education of Ontario promoted the use of Lexia Reading in 2020 and worked with Greenfield to develop pricing for school boards to purchase the program. The proposed contract will license 1,800 students for Lexia Reading Core 5 and Lexia PowerUp for three years at a total cost of \$248,000.

**Strategic Direction** • Allocate human and financial resources strategically to support student needs.



**BRIEFING NOTE**

**Date** 24 February 2021

**To** Finance, Budget & Enrolment Committee

**From** Peter Singh, Executive Officer, Information Technology and Information Management

**Subject** **Veritas NetBackup Software**

**Purpose** Netbackup by Veritas is our current enterprise data backup system for on-premise mission critical services such as Microsoft Exchange, SAP, Oracle and SQL.

The demand for storage to backup our critical systems has continued to appreciate. We require licensing for a total of 260 TB of storage, in addition to support for the associated Netbackup appliances.

Under the existing Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) agreement for Software License Products and Related Services, Teramach is the only reseller of Veritas licensing and support.

**Strategic Direction** • Allocate human and financial resources strategically to support student needs.

## BRIEFING NOTE

**Date** 24 February 2021

**To** Finance, Budget & Enrolment Committee

**From** Angela Nardi-Adessa, System Superintendent – Special Education and Inclusion  
Andrew Gold, Associate Director – Leadership, Learning and School Improvement

**Subject** **STAR Online Learning System**

**Purpose** The STAR resources provide a foundation to ensure that students who are struggling to access the existing general education curriculum have the resources they need to be successful. Resources include assessment, lesson plans, visual supports, behavior supports and academic instruction. Teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service staff may access these resources to identify target skills and follow detailed lesson plans for instruction, access the supplemental supports during teaching time and routines, as well as collect data on student outcomes.

The STAR Program is used in over 2,500 school districts and school boards throughout the United States and many school boards throughout Canada. It has been researched by several universities and has been shown to be effective in six published research studies, two of which were randomized control trial studies (see STAR Research and Curriculum Overview Section 1: Research Support), for students with autism and other developmental disabilities. An online companion to the STAR Program is the STAR Online Learning System (SOLS-primary and SOLS-secondary). SOLS is a synchronous (instructor lead) virtual learning program for when learning cannot take place in-person at school. SOLS provides the student with a REEL (Remote Education for Exceptional Learning) that is similar to a PowerPoint, but it is interactive. This process allows the remote instruction to simulate in-classroom instruction.

The combination of the STAR Program for on-site learning and SOLS for remote learning allows teachers to offer a seamless hybrid learning program to students. In addition to STAR and SOLS, teachers will have access to the STAR Media Center which provides supporting digital materials to the STAR/SOLS curriculum. The STAR Media Center includes theme units, visual supports for teaching STAR/SOLS routines, video training on the STAR/SOLS programs, asynchronous packets, and home supports. The combination of STAR, SOLS (when remote learning is needed) and the STAR Media Center, is designed to meet each student's individual needs.

- Strategic Direction**
- Allocate human and financial resources strategically to support student needs.