

College Station Independent School District

Success ... each life ... each day ... each hour

<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

To:

Dr. Eddie Coulson, Superintendent

From:

Dr. Clark Ealy, Deputy Superintendent for Administrative Services

Date:

February 9, 2011

Subject:

Consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the Texas A&M University

("TAMU"), and College Station Independent School District, ("CSISD") for the

operation and management by TAMU of the Federal Communications Commission

("FCC") Educational Broadband Frequencies issued to CSISD.

Agenda Item:

K-1

Board Priority/

District Goal:

A, B, C - 1, 2, 4, 5

Background

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) assigned some broadband spectrum to colleges, public education entities, churches, and other non-profit organizations back in the late 1960's and early 1970's that was to be used for television broadcasts by the owner entity for instructional or educational services. These are called Educational Broadband Spectrum (EBS) channels.

College Station ISD has 4 EBS channels, and the district has been reviewing our options for the past two years. We must either lease the channels or deploy them for our use by May 1, 2011, or the FCC will reassign them to another entity.

CSISD has been working with Texas A&M University, Blinn College, Bryan ISD and other districts in our region. The groups entered into a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to gather interest in leasing these channels in late 2009. The responses to the RFP were not what any of the entities hoped, and the leases were not pursued. Since that time the entities have been working together to plan joint use the frequencies.

The motion and resolution before you would allow College Station ISD to work with Texas A&M University to operate and manage the district's EBS channels. This would allow the district to have its channels deployed and not subject to reallocation by the FCC. College Station ISD with Texas A&M and others in the

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BVCNet will continue to plan and deploy the broadband spectrum for use by educational and other public entities in Brazos County.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Interlocal Agreement with Texas A&M University for the operation and management of Educational Broadband Frequencies allocated to College Station ISD.