

## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion: \_\_\_\_\_  
Future Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
Action:  X

Item: VMware Renewal

Submitted by: Tim Lillis

Recommended by: Glen Finkel

Date: 5.04.2026

Board Meeting Date: 5.18.2026

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### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Kent ISD School Board approve the renewal of VMware vSphere licensing through Trace3 for an annual amount of \$87,700.

### BACKGROUND:

VMware vSphere is the industry-standard virtualization platform that allows Kent ISD to run multiple "virtual" servers on a single physical hardware unit, significantly reducing equipment costs and energy consumption. Kent ISD has utilized VMware vSphere to manage its virtual environments for over a decade. Following Broadcom's acquisition of VMware in 2023, the licensing structure underwent significant changes, most notably the elimination of education discounts and a reduction in available licensing tiers.

To mitigate further price volatility, Kent ISD recommends entering into a three-year agreement. This approach locks in current pricing and provides short-term budget stability while allowing the district sufficient time to evaluate alternative virtualization solutions.