

# **LastMile Connectivity Grant Application**

**Central Point School District 6**

**November 29, 2009**

Project Proposal: Extend fiber network to Sams Valley Elementary School

Amount Requested: \$50,000

## **Background**

Sams Valley Elementary School (SVE) is a rural country school that serves 212 students in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The school first opened in 1948 and currently has 33 staff members. Because of its smaller size and community support the dedicated staff believes that SVE is one of the very best places in the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon for children to attend school.

SVE has 132 computers for staff and student use. Every class has one class time scheduled in the media center with the media specialist and one flex computer time with their own teacher. Each segment includes basic keyboarding and computer instruction based on grade level. Training on the use of researching on the Internet, OpenOffice, PowerPoint and Excel is also planned. Students are being taught how to use blog pages using the District's WordPress installation. Computers are also used for research projects and OAKS testing.

62% of the students at Sams Valley receive free and reduced lunch and come from low income families. Many of these students do not have access to a computer at home. The public library has computers available, but SVE is located 11.3 miles from the nearest public library which is in Medford. There is no public transportation to this library which is operating under reduced hours due to funding cuts.

Sams Valley Elementary serves all members of this unincorporated community. If you were to visit during the evening you might encounter 4-H meetings, Watershed Council meetings, Fire group meetings, local business meetings, Girl Scouts, or Boy Scouts among other gatherings. The gym is used on a regular basis to provide students with an opportunity to participate in sports such as volleyball and basketball. The staff takes great pride in their school and the role it plays as the hub of this rural community. The mission of Sams Valley Elementary School is as follows: School District #6, in partnership with parents and community, is dedicated to assisting students in reaching their individual potential as productive, responsible participants in society within an environment that encourages learning, where students will acquire skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to successfully meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century. The staff feels strongly that for their students to succeed in the future they must become proficient at accessing the Internet to do research. Improving connectivity at their school is imperative for SVE students to reach this goal.

Sams Valley Elementary is the only school in Central Point School District that does not have an adequate pipe to the Internet. All other sites in the District are connected by fiber optics provided by Hunter Communications allowing high speed connections between sites and to the Internet. Since their voice and data traffic shares one T1 line, streaming video is not an option and at times, online state testing is problematic. Imaging workstations and deploying software applications to Sams Valley Elementary from the District's Technology Department is not possible due to this bandwidth limitation.

## **Project Description**

We want Hunter Communications to extend our fiber network to Sams Valley Elementary. This will provide them with a Gigabit connection and allow us to drop our 1.5 Megabit T1 line. This increased bandwidth will allow for high speed data and voice communications between all District sites as well as high speed Internet access. Equipment is not part of our funding request as we already have the necessary hardware. We just need to have fiber run to this rural site.

## **How Our Proposal Satisfies the LastMile Connectivity Grant Selection Criteria**

Central Point School District 6 has an existing fiber network connecting all sites except Sams Valley Elementary. Due to current economics, District 6 could not afford to extend its fiber network to include Sams Valley Elementary without this grant. This grant will be used to fund the build-out of the fiber network by Hunter Communications down Table Rock Road to Sams Valley Elementary.

The District is already committed to the monthly recurring cost of a T1 connection to Sams Valley Elementary. The monthly recurring cost for the fiber connection will be less than our current T1 cost.

## **Site Description and Number of Students and Educators Served**

Sams Valley Elementary is located at 14235 Table Rock Road in Central Point, Oregon.

Sams Valley Elementary serves 212 students with 33 staff members.

## **Key ESD and School Staff Involved in Proposal**

Central Point School District 6

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Southern Oregon ESD

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## **Description and Role of Contractor involved in Proposal**

Hunter Communications, in Central Point, Oregon is the company that provides fiber connectivity between all of our sites and to the ESD, except Sams Valley Elementary. We have a terrific working relationship with Hunter as they have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help us complete our data connectivity projects. Rich Ryan is the President of Hunter Communications and Sam Ackley is the main contact for this project.

Rich Ryan  
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Sam Ackley  
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## **Budget**

**Proposal:** Extend fiber network to Sams Valley Elementary School

Hunter will run fiber on poles down Table Rock Road to Sams Valley Elementary.

**Funding Source:** LastMile Connectivity Grant

The total cost for Hunter to run fiber all the way to Sams Valley Elementary is \$172,000. They have agreed to do the job for \$50,000 with the expectation that they will have the opportunity to recover the rest of the cost by signing up more customers in the area.

**Sustainability:** The grant will pay for the one-time expense of running the fiber.

The monthly recurring cost of \$450 will be paid by District 6. This is less than the District's current monthly commitment for the T1 connection so sustainability is not an issue.