

## Technology

- Austin is growing into his new position and has been eager to learn. With each new project, we are working together to broaden his skill set. It is a lot to take on especially after only working in the district for 6 months prior. However, I have full confidence in him! By asking questions and having good communication, the technology department will continue to be successful.
- I have hired Logan Picklesimer as the computer technician. Logan is a 2106 graduate of GCHS and has been working in the private sector. He started last week and has “hit the ground running” He is learning our procedures and getting to know the staff and students.
- Both Austin and Logan are young and just beginning their careers. It is an honor to work with them and help them grow. I have offered them several opportunities for growth such as regional computer technicians group meetings, putting them in touch with veteran network managers and technicians, and other professional developments. I have decided that the technology department will not attend KYSTE this year. With both of them being so new to the position, a large conference is not the ideal learning situation. They are benefiting more from working directly with me, and the small technician groups. Also, the ACT is during KYSTE. Since the ACT relies completely on technology, I feel it is important for all of us to be in the district to support the students and staff. We plan to attend KYSTE next year.
- The STLP state competition is on April 20, 2022. We have several students competing at the state level. I will be attending to judge the level 3 projects that determine national level competition.
- All of the switches that we have been waiting for have finally arrived. The engineers that will complete the install have been here in the district for the walk-throughs. The installation is scheduled for next week on Thursday and Friday after school. These switches are from our eRate project from last year. Due to shipping and availability, the equipment has slowly been trickling in. Since all of the pieces work together, it could not be installed until it was all here. We will be replacing old switches and adding additional ones at the high school, adding additional switches in the upper, middle and lower and adding additional access points in all schools in “dead areas” where the wifi is weaker. A signal strength test was completed to determine these areas. The additional switches are needed for the additional access points and security cameras that were installed.
- The eRate window is open for this year and I am currently working on those applications.
- We are preparing Chromebooks for the ACT and EOC assessments at the high school and working with the middle school on the technology requirements for a new science program.

## Facilities/Maintenance/Custodial

- Our maintenance team continues to work hard and meet the needs of the district. I can't brag on them enough. There is still lots to be done but they are prioritizing larger projects while meeting the day to day demands of the district.
- I have submitted all the required paperwork for the energy savings project into the FACPAC system. I spoke with the John Gilbert from KDE about the project and our plans. He has provided me with useful resources. We have a plan for how to move forward with the paperwork portion of the project. At this point, the Letter of Intent and the initial BG1 have been approved. The RFP, cash flow, energy savings chart and ESSER funding are pending approval. I do not foresee an issue with these documents being approved.
- Trane has been in the district completing walk throughs with Troy looking at the HVAC equipment and the current control systems. We have provided them with all of the information they have requested from the HVAC side of the project. Mr. Hammond completed a walk-

through with Trane regarding lighting. I saw the light that was suggested and talked with them for a short time after the walk-through. Since I was not available for the walk-through, Mr. Hammond may be able to share more information on that meeting.

- I have submitted the BG1 for the paving project. However, I will need more direction on the board on how to proceed. I have not been given a paving plan at this time. I know Mr. Hammond has spoken with others regarding this so he may have more information to share.
- I have sent the reference list and pictures of their work for R & E Mowing. I would recommend approving this bid as it is considerably less than the other bid. They have walked the district and been shown the exact areas they are required to care for and the timeline. I have no reservations about this company after seeing their work and references. They do both commercial and residential. It will be a large savings to the district. The bid is from April to October with approximately 31 weeks to mow. One bid was 1025 per mow which would equal – 31,775. The other bid was 650 per mow which would equal 20,150. It is a savings of 11,625 for the district.
- The custodial company continues to improve their service to the district. Heather (the regional supervisor) and Ashley (the site supervisor who is here every day) are completing walkthroughs twice a month. They have come in during snow and NTI days to do more detailed cleaning such as window and door frames, under desks and chairs, top of shelves, floor edging, etc.... They, like most companies, have experienced some staffing issues however both Heather and Ashley come in to complete the work if one of their staff members calls in sick. While there are still some growing pains on both sides (the custodial company and ours), they are doing an excellent job. Heather, Ashley, Troy, the day shift custodians and I have frequent communication and are working to improve procedures. This issues (if any) are small such as missing a trash can and are correctable. The most recent walkthrough was last week with Heather, Troy and Ashley. They spoke to every principal and no one shared any concerns. Next month, we will start working on the summer cleaning schedule.
- I want to give a special shout out to Bo Ford. One of our custodians was out due to a death in the family and Bo covered at the Lower. He worked so hard cleaning and went the extra mile to build relationships with the students. Last week and this week, he has been covering at the Upper/Middle. He has also done an excellent job! I have had several staff tell me how much they appreciate him! Also, today is his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday!

Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

Thank you,

*Michelle A. Lawrence*