

Chief Information Officer/Director of Technology

Board Report

April 19, 2022

- As I mentioned last month, we were still waiting for the new access points that were part of the eRate program from last year. They arrived last week. These APs will be to cover any “weak areas” that were discovered during the wireless assessment. These will be installed in a few weeks.
- The District Technology Planning committee will be again on April 19th to finalize our plan. This is a working document so as the next school year progresses we will make updates as needed. One of the main items that has been identified is the age and cost of upkeep for the classroom equipment such as whiteboards, document cameras and projectors. This equipment was installed about 15 years ago. The software that came with the whiteboards is no longer accessible for updates. The cost of the projectors and bulbs has increased significantly. I am working with our engineer at the state level and other districts to research options to replace this equipment. It will be expensive so we will need to conduct in depth research and tests on any equipment that we are interested in. Our planning committee will be an essential part of this as they will assist with the testing of equipment. I foresee this project to be in the near future however not immediately. Since this would have to be paid out of the general fund or KETS money, we will have to implement this in stages.
- I have included on the board agenda the approval for Chromebook fees. In our current CB agreement that all families sign, we have the cost of repairs/replacements listed. However, we only have a small percentage of the fees that are paid. It is difficult to enforce payment by keeping a CB away because students rely on the devices. This is a common issue among all districts as it has been a topic of discussion at our monthly CIO meetings and at the state level. Many districts are working with insurance companies to cover the repairs of CBs. I have looked at different companies and talked with other districts. The company that Grant County uses (and that Jake is familiar with) has the most reasonable cost and coverage. Since some students will take the CB home and some will keep them at school, the price per device is different. It is \$17 for at school use and \$25 for at school and home use. The damage that happens to CBs has continued to increase and the funds recovered has decreased. I am concerned that this will catch up to us soon. CBs have melted in hot cars, been infested with insects, thrown up on, painted and even shot with a bb gun. I believe the annual CB fee collected from students before a CB is issued will help with better care of the device and less funds lost.
- The STLP State Competition is April 20th. We have several students competing at the state level.
- In August, as part of the district professional development plan, we will be hosting the Gallatin County Technology and Learning Conference for our staff. Our STLP students will be assisting with this conference. Our district staff along with outside professionals will be presenting sessions on various topics from technology, instructional strategies, mental health, etc...

