Technology Department Status/Update
October 22, 2025

I. Device/Apple Lease Status
   A. Student Devices
      1. There is 1 more year remaining on the lease for the current fleet of student Macbooks and iPad. The last lease payment of $259,447,22 is due on July 3, 2026, at which point the devices will be fully owned by the district. This covers 700 Macbook Airs and 650 iPads. An additional 50 iPads were purchased outright with KETS funds to cover enrollment/device assignment shifts. These are under warranty until September 2027.
      2. The leased devices are under warranty until August 2027, so they are covered for the rest of this school year and the next. Once they go out of warranty, it is not cost-effective to repair them, so a refresh cycle would be needed. As in the previous two device cycles, the out-of-warranty devices would be traded-in or sold off in bulk to a reseller and a new lease or purchase of laptops, iPads, Chromebooks, or other devices would be needed during the summer of 2027. There is significant value to working, out-of-warranty devices that is recouped by the district in this manner.
      3. NHS has an additional 3 carts of 30 Chromebooks that were purchased with their grant funds. These are used primarily when doing large group testing for Access, ACT/SAT, iReady, etc. They are still under warranty and should have several years of useful life in them. Chromebooks do not have much resale value after their 4 year warranty expires. They would continue to be in use after going out of warranty, and we would cannibalize for parts and try to self-repair as they break for a year or two or more after that to extend their use before they are obsolete and would be recycled.
   B. Staff Devices
      1. The current staff devices all went out of warranty this summer. As staff devices tend to be damaged at a much lower rate than student devices, we are keeping them in service this year and relying on using a pool of available spares for any broken devices. For reference, a non-warranty screen or keyboard replacement is ~$400 or more. A new device with a new 4-year warranty would be around $1000-1200. There are 300 Macbooks purchased outright with Esser funds, 40 with Cares funds, and 100 iPads also with Cares funds that are out of warranty.
      2. If funding allows, my recommendation would be to purchase or lease new staff devices this summer and trade-in the bulk of the out-of-warranty devices to help defray the cost.

II. Cybersecurity

A. As previously reported in the annual summer cybersecurity report to the board, the district uses the Best Practices guide supplied by KDE to help maintain our systems and protect and monitor for threats and vulnerabilities. We receive updates monthly during the state CIO Webcast as well as at in-person monthly meetings with the other districts in our region. Elements of our security measures include:
   1. Multi-Factor Authentication for better account security
   2. Conditional Access Policies (to prevent or limit cyberattackers from outside the U.S.)
   3. Strong Password Policies
   4. Frequent Review of Inactive or Unneeded Accounts

B. The new state identity management project, frequently referred to as CUES and provided in partnership with Rapid Identity, is in the final stages of implementation in the district. It will further help our cybersecurity efforts by automating the disablement of accounts with no active student or staff member associated with them, as well as furthering strengthening our student password requirements.

C. Anti-Virus is an area the district will soon need to address. The state is shifting funding away from anti-virus, which was previously 100% funded at the state level. With a great reduction in the number of Windows-based devices in K12 districts, they feel their budge can better serve districts by using it in other technology areas. This coverage ends in summer 2026. Districts will have to implement their own solutions at that point. There are a wide variety of options to consider, along with an equally wide variety of costs and benefits.