

**Glenbrook District 225
Technology Committee Minutes – March 1, 2017
Communications Meeting**

Members Present: Bretag, Fagel, Finan, Gravel, Hanley, Kim, Riggle, Shein, Williamson

Also Present: Ahmed, Baig, Manly

Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 a.m.

Review of the 2016-2017 Technology Service Projects

a) Wireless Network Renovation

During the past year, the District replaced the existing wireless network hardware with upgraded controllers and access points. This equipment included over 500 wireless access points, and two controllers that support the access points throughout the District's buildings. As part of the project, the network was redesigned for stability, improved user experiences, and expanded coverage in classrooms, offices, auditoriums, hallways, and exterior areas.

Dr. Gravel introduced Senior Network Engineer/Interim Technology Services Manager, Zia Ahmed and Senior Network Engineer, Tariq Baig. Both gentlemen oversaw the implementation of the wireless network upgrade with the assistance of additional internal resources. Several Plant Operations staff members from GBN and GBS were leveraged to complete this project. Dr. Gravel mentioned that the original purchase cost for this upgrade was approximately \$433,000. With the assistance of a federal grant for about \$182,000, as well as the sale of older hardware, the project cost came substantially under what was anticipated.

Dr. Gravel emphasized that Glenbrook is extremely fortunate to have two certified network engineers on staff who are experts in implementing these types of solutions and commended their efforts for leading and implementing this project.

b) Staff Device Assessment

Dr. Gravel presented some background information on our current fleet of staff and student devices. He explained that it is very common for most school districts to put staff and student devices on a replacement cycle that spans 4-5 years. Our current cycle for student devices located in the school labs is a five years. For staff laptops, historically we've gone from a three year cycle to the current four year cycle, with our current fleet in its third year. Whereas a five year cycle is fairly common, there are pros and cons when the life or expectation of a laptop is extended. Dr. Gravel shared that before replacement cycle timelines are determined or updated, device data must be reviewed to arrive at good conclusions.

Dr. Gravel introduced Ryan Manly who serves as an Interim Technology Services Manager and the Senior Deployment Specialist who oversees all of the Mac and PC infrastructure. Mr. Manly mentioned a tool he uses to monitor performance data and measures the mean health of over 860 staff devices. Mr. Manly presented a detailed overview of the current condition of our fleet of

Apple devices. The data indicated that the overall fleet is demonstrating extremely good health, from a maintenance, storage capacity, and battery life expectancy. Mr. Manly also shared that he is working with the Technology Services team to collect similar statistics for devices using the Windows operating system, and anticipates having fleet health data to share at an upcoming committee meeting.

Preliminary Budget Parameters

a) Technology Services (New Initiatives and Lease Update)

Dr. Gravel presented an updated lease schedule for all capitalized leases that have been approved by the Board of Education. As shared in the information provided, the equipment lease payments are beginning to decline. In fiscal year 2018, outstanding lease payments will be approximately \$873,000 and in fiscal year 2019, the payments will decline to approximately \$347,000. Additionally, Dr. Gravel shared that no large projects are anticipated to be presented to the Board this year.

b) Instructional Innovation (Learning Spaces)

Mr. Bretag described a pilot program established last year known as The Learning Spaces Initiative. The pilot was designed to explore the potential of learning spaces from an entry level. For example, helping teachers understand chairs as learning tools rather than merely operational furniture. The hope is to form a strong Learning Space Research Team composed of teachers and administrators from both buildings that will design the traits of future classrooms. Currently we are in the process with about five universities developing tools to measure the effectiveness. This will be a slow and methodical process.

Adjournment

Dr. Gravel thanked the attendees for their time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09am.