

Technology Board Report May 2013

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Currently Supporting

8 CentOS Linux Servers, 12 Windows Servers, 3 outsourced servers, 12 Video Surveillance servers, 109 vital network devices, 2,435 Computing devices, 120 virtual computers, 576 printers, 345 projectors, 214 Smartboards, 10 Student Response systems, 1,181 inventoried software items, 2,255 miscellaneous peripherals.

Network Report

8/1/2012 – 5/7/2013 Average Availability 99.14%

The last year has been a huge year of growth for technology in our district. We have worked with the SRO's to add numerous new security cameras, implemented a district wide wireless solution, and installed new Servers with some very complex, scalable and feature-rich combinations of hardware and software. Early into the security camera installation, the added coverage started paying off for our Officers. Security is always a concern and we will continue to assist in any way possible to secure our schools in both the physical and data security aspects.

Over the last couple years, we have been exploring 1:1 solutions. This has been a slow process, but hopefully the time that is passing will help us make the best decisions for our District. 1:1 computing is a very costly plan, but access to information for our students is the ultimate goal. We have begun to prepare for this type of learning environment. This up-coming budget year very few desktop computers will be purchased. Instead, netbooks will be purchased as replacements for existing desktops. This decision came after analyzing things like "Why keep buying desktops when we are seeing more and more requests for mobile devices?" and "I would love six computers but I don't have the room." This decision will start us down a path to ease into a 1:1 learning environment. These netbooks are powerful and flexible enough to be used as common desktop computers but mobile enough to be used anywhere and shared between teachers. This solves many issues for many people. Our wireless system for basic coverage is already being utilized at 600 – 800+ devices per day and growing. We have been fostering a Bring Your Own Device environment and helping as much as possible to get people using their own technology in our schools. The number of devices we're seeing daily adds access to information for our staff and students, hopefully improving everyone's productivity and learning.

We cannot forget all of this comes at a cost. When networks go down more people are affected. Bandwidth between buildings and switch links is being more heavily utilized today, more than I have ever seen in my 13+ years in this District. I used to boast that this network was capable of so much more than it actually gets used, but this is the

first year I have seen the utilization lights on our core switch. Utilization of links between buildings has gone up 3-9 times higher than ever almost overnight. With an additional 600-800 devices connecting per day, people may already have needed help or will need help in the future connecting or using their devices. Our concerns as a department are, “Are they using it correctly?”, “Do they know what they have access to.” and “How do we support them when they do?” In the up-coming year our District needs to seriously consider adding a full-time trainer who can help with getting everyone up to speed using technology effectively, getting the word out on what is available and bridging the gap between the needs, knowledge and availability.