

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:

May 29, 2012

SUBJECT:

Agreements from Fiber Project

PRESENTER:

Josh Swanson

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

No Action – Report only

DESCRIPTION:

In 2010 we entered a Joint Powers Agreement and a collaborative fiber network project with Saint Michael-Albertville Schools (STMA). The project connected STMA, BHM Schools, and TIES data centers with a high speed and high capacity fiber optic wire. In the initial proposal to the school board we stated that this project would provide the infrastructure necessary to: significantly increase our internet bandwidth, share data centers as disaster recovery sites, reduce costs through joint purchasing, and create opportunities for "Win-Win" partnerships with other organizations including the possibility of off-setting revenues for our district.

Once the fiber network was operational we went to work on each of these tasks. In the 2012-13 school year our internet connection through TIES will provide up to 1 Gbps of burst speed. In 2000 we had a 1.2 Mbps internet connection, in 2007 we had a 20 Mbps connection, and in 2011 we had a 45 Mbps connection. Our internet connection will be almost one thousand times faster in 2012 than it was in 2000.

We now use the STMA data center to store all of our disaster recovery (DR) data and are finishing our validation of our disaster recovery plan. STMA is actively using our data to host their DR data. This relationship has worked well and has allowed us to avoid the cost of developing a secondary DR data center.

Virtualized desktops (VD) are being used in several pilot sites and have been helping us manage large desktop computer replacement needs. Although we have found that VD are not good replacements for all desktops they do allow us to extend the use of machines that are 8-13 years old and improve functionality. The cost of maintaining a VD is about 15% of the cost of replacement with a

new computer on an annual basis when leveraging the old desktop hardware. It has provided a good cost benefit outcome in several places around the district.

Partnerships with other LEA's and organizations have been pursued in the past year and half and we are pleased to announce that the City of Hanover City Council has given approval for their City Manager to work with us. We have submitted an agreement to the city in which we will host their DR data and they will compensate us. We are excited about the partnership and it creates an avenue to enter conversations about other shared services. The school district along with STMA has also entered an agreement with the State of MN Infrastructure Technology office to provide fiber access. The State is compensating both districts for traversing our network and the agreement is generating \$4800 per year for the school district. These agreements with partners create revenue that offsets costs or investments that the school district has made.

The fiber project has yielded the benefits that we foresaw in the project and we expect that we can continue to generate new partnerships that will provide revenue or cost avoidance for the district.

ATTACHMENT(S): None