P.O. Box 1330
675 Second Street
Cordova, AK 99574

CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT

(T) 907-424-3265
(F) 907-424-3271
www.cordovasd.org

Keith Zamudio
Director of Technology Board Report
June 12, 2019

2018-2019 GOALS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

- Continue to investigate CSD's data link services between Mt. Eccles Elementary School and Cordova Jr./Sr. High School as allowed by E-Rate's Second Modernization Order.
- Continue to investigate CSD's bandwidth needs to accommodate our digital learning environment.
- Continue to expand the Cordova City Consortium for E-Rate subsidies.

E-Rate Funding Year 2019

The Cordova City Consortium for E-Rate subsidies has successfully filed their Form 470 and 471 for Funding Year 2019. As you know we are awaiting a Funding Decision Commitment Letter. The FCC hopes to have all applications reviewed by September 2019.

Senior Laptop

CSD's IT Department has successfully collected, reimaged and sold the 2019 graduated seniors their student issued laptop. Students paid the one-dollar purchase fee, and 10 students opted for hard drive upgrades. All senior laptops have been prepared as needed for purchase. Many seniors have picked up their computers.

Student Laptop Check In

CSD's IT Department has successfully collected all Jr./Sr. high school student laptops for the summer break. I would like to express my appreciation to the staff and students. They helped the process go well.

Student laptops, including the laptops used by the elementary students, undergo diagnostic testing to determine that all hardware components are functional. Those laptops that are found needing repair are sent to an Apple authorized repair center. Additionally, laptops are given a good visual inspection and cleaning.

When laptops have passed inspection and/or are repaired, laptops are re-imaged with updated operating system software and updated/upgraded with the productivity software that the district provides its staff and students to administrate their duties.

Though I summarized this process with a few short paragraphs, this process takes most of our available time in June and August to get laptops ready including re-imaging. Creating the image for the laptops is a detailed and time-consuming process. This image contains all of the software licensing, drivers and configurations for

MT. ECCLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(T) 907-424-3236
(F) 907-424-3117

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

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printers, network settings and individual account profiles. This is the busiest time of the year for CSD's IT Department.

Computer Services

We continue our exploration in the use of ChromeBooks as learning tools. Our first rollout to the fifth-grade class was successful. The fifth graders were able to use the ChromeBooks to MAP test as well.

Our efforts have been to test the viability of the ChromeBooks as a learning tool in our digital learning environment. In my research, I came across a software vendor called Neverware. Forbes Magazine wrote the following about Neverware:

> Founded in 2010, Neverware's mission was to help a very specific demographic - schools who had scores of unused laptops that were outdated and couldn't run the latest Windows or Mac operating systems. Through desktop virtualization, Neverware was able to help schools extend the life of their aging hardware. Then in 2015 they developed CloudReady, an OS built off of Chromium (the source code that powers, you guessed it, Google Chrome OS) that allows school and enterprise's last gen and laptops to be deployed as lightweight Chrome-powered machines that can be managed by Google's Chrome Device Management.

This article resonated with me in that I was faced with many of the variables that were identified in the article: older computers with limited hard drive space, Windows and Mac operating systems continue to take more space to facilitate all the tasks consumers have come to expect, and, for CSD, the inability to utilize our current laptop deployment system. As I shared in my last report, Apple "burned out" the capacity to utilize our current laptop deployment system with their September 2018 release of Mac OS 10.14 - Mojave. We can continue our program, but we would incur an additional annual subscription fee of $7000 or more.

With this in mind, I leveraged Neverware's CloudReady to get a few more years of life from older MacBooks. I had already upgraded these older Macs with solid state hard drives. The total cost to convert 35 of these older Macs to Chrome OS is $1375. This includes Chrome OS (an annual subscription fee) and obtain a perpetual license so that the device can be enrolled in our Google Suites Admin console for student management. We intend to offer teachers the opportunity to check out a one of these devices for further review.

With the rocky fiscal landscape that faces public education, we are not the first district to look seriously at an alternative solution. I have included a link to another article that I thought was informative, 4 Reasons Why Superintendents and CTOs Have Chosen Chromebooks. While written by the Head of Education Sales at Neverware, the article does a nice job of detailing many of the issues the IT Department experiences as we prepare to deploy nearly 400 laptops each year.

Ultimately, my goal is to provide information, resources, and opportunities to explore the technologies available to empower our staff and students with viable and reliable learning devices.

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As we have identified, instructional technology is a moving target. Change in technology is never ending, and schools will need to be flexible just as we ask of our staff and students.

Letter of Resignation

Please find attached a copy of my letter of resignation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Keith Zamudio – Technology Director

CURRENT PROJECTS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Continue to manage CSD's website
- Update student photos in PowerSchool
- Configuring upgraded web filter
- Upgrade and updating CSD's Managed Software Center
- Upgrade and updating CSD's modular system deployment
- Deploying Mobile Device Management server

UPCOMING PROJECTS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Continue work on E-Rate application for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.
- Wi-Fi upgrade utilizing E-Rate subsidies
- Facilitate the survey of our network.

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June 4, 2019

Dear Superintendent Russin,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that I am resigning from my position as Technology Director with the Cordova School District. My last day will be June 24, 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the opportunity to be Cordova School District's Technology Director for the past 13 years. I have enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities I've had as Technology Director. Providing students and teachers laptops as a learning tool, and implementing a 1 to 1 laptop initiative was a career ambition and highlight. Thank you for the opportunity to realize that dream. I truly believe that Instructional Technology can level the playing field, and is a game changer in education.

My work with Cordova School District has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience. I appreciated the latitude with which I was allowed to do my job, especially, my work on the governing board for the Alaska Society for Technology in Education. CSD's support and guidance during my tenure allowed me to explore and grow professionally. Thank you! These are experiences I value and cherish.

Please know that I will do my best to wrap up my duties, and prepare the IT Department for a smooth transition.

I wish the Cordova School District continued success. I believe that I have had the opportunity to work with a dedicated and professional staff. I am honored and proud to be a member of the Cordova family.

Sincerely,

Keith Zamudio