Technology Update to the Board

Boyceville Community School District
November 18, 2026 | Dale Mahalko, Director of Technology

No board action is requested at this time.

Progress this school year

- **Network reliability.** Security cameras were causing a disruption for other district needs. They have been relocated into a separate network.

- **Network monitoring.** Implemented an event and trend tracking system, to observe the ongoing health and activity of district network equipment.

- **Student Chromebooks.** Standardized device settings and tightened management restrictions to help reduce classroom distractions.

- **Staff computer upgrades, maintenance.** Set up a new method for automated Windows 11 and software installation, for consistent device deployment.

- **Staff workspace alignment with their needs:** I have been working with staff to review how their workspaces are organized, so that equipment and cabling is arranged in a manner that works best for them.

Next priorities

- **Wi-Fi upgrades:** Cisco ended support for most district Wi-Fi equipment in July 2026. The equipment is still working while I compare replacement options for E-Rate. A Meraki replacement could cost up to $120,000 before discounts, and I'm also reviewing lower-cost options like Ubiquiti UniFi.

- **Data backup protection:** I'm evaluating a replacement data backup system estimated at $30,000. It would let us keep backups longer and improve our ability to recover files and systems, using copies stored both on site and off site.

Longer term planning

- **Realignment of staff technology to be more mobile:** Staff have requested more mobile flexibility, to use laptops with docking stations rather than desktops. I am reviewing options such as Google Drive, and I am planning a test with a handful of Microsoft 365 Education A3 cloud accounts.

- **Future server upgrades and replacement:** Manufacturer support for the district's servers is expected to end in July 2028. I'm comparing the cost of extending support with replacing the equipment. Moving staff files to the cloud could reduce how much server capacity we need on site.