October 2024 –District Technology Update

October Update

Summer projects and initial school rush have finally started to wind down. We got a lot done over the summer and have some great improvements that came to the district. The biggest being a complete switch over for our phone system.

We are now using a Crexendo IP based phone system. This phone system has added several improved features as well as options we never had before. The roll out took a bit longer than anticipated but, in the end, has been worth it. This change also brings a smaller monthly phone bill and will save us a lot of money in the long run.

During the summer I worked with maintenance staff to try and get as many of our new Board Series One 65s put into classrooms as possible. We ran into issues finding stands and have now slowly been trickling the remaining boards into rooms as we find rolling stands for the rest of the devices. These devices have improved capabilities over the Jamboards but are very similar overall.

I have begun the hunt for finding a new intercom option for both schools. I would like to find an IP based intercom system. This would make it so all our key communication pieces run on the network and are much easier to manage. I am still in the early stages of finding a system that would offer bells and the intercom functionality we would like.

Microsoft 365 has started to be implemented in the district as well. This is a "cloud" based version of the Microsoft suite and will offer the district options for expansion and different server setups in the future. This is a key step in guiding the district to a pivot point so that we will have MANY different options for the direction technology could go in the future.

I am working with LBLESD (E-rate services provider) to join our district to the 3-year Cyber security pilot program for E-rate. This is a brand-new program with $200 million dollars available for schools to try and get extra funding to upgrade cyber security in their districts. I am hoping we can get a small amount of this funding to continue to improve our technology here in the district.

Projects

Inventory
Documentation
License and contract tracking
Digitize 2CJ Tech Handbook
Chromebook Repair
Intercom research
Microsoft 365 implementation
Cyber Security Pilot program