Technology Board Report - March 2020

Zoom - A final committee meeting was held and Zoom has been chosen as the replacement online class and video collaboration platform. The committee has determined that Zoom will meet all of our virtual classroom and video conferencing needs. Additionally, DRS has offered to provide the needed licenses for Zoom at no extra cost to LPSD.

We are currently working on an implementation plan to provide all needed training to staff and students on the new platform. We have been and will continue to use Zoom for our cyber counselling meetings. Some professional development sessions will transition to Zoom this spring so that staff can become more familiar with the platform prior to the start of online classes in the fall.

Network Upgrades - The tech team has been planning a number of network upgrades to increase efficient use of our internet resources. We are leveraging E-Rate and DRS to accomplish these upgrades with minimal cost to the district. We have finished the E-Rate category 2 bid and review process, and have chosen our vendor. The equipment will be ordered over the summer and the upgrades will be completed in late August.

DRS has purchased 3 Cacheboxes for LPSD to evaluate this fall. We will install the Cacheboxes at our 3 sites with the heaviest network load this spring, and the remainder of our sites this fall (pending successful evaluation).

Testing and Assessments - The students finished the Spring MAP Growth Benchmark testing this last week. We always strive to have technology ready to go for the start of our testing windows, but unexpected errors were encountered due to recent software changes by MAPS that were not documented. We first learned of these errors once the testing window had already opened and students started testing. We always ask that staff and students launch the testing applications prior to the start of testing so we can address any errors ahead of time, but this does not always happen.

Our next online assessment will be the PEAKS state testing. We have made all necessary technology preparations to set staff and students up for success. To ensure success at the start of state testing with minimal hiccups, detailed preparation instructions have been sent to each site. These include directions to test the software no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of state testing. We will be following up with each site to ensure this happens.