Technology Department
May 2017

E-rate 2017-18

It is once again filing time for our E-rate dollars for the 2017-18 grant year. We have applied for:

- 90% funding of our internet and WAN connections (WAN connections connect Babb, middle and high schools)

- 85% internal connections covering the maintenance of our network switches.

- 30% of our telecommunication services including voice, fax and cellular services. Because of our status being 90% free and reduced status, our district still enjoys a nominal discount on our telephony services. Districts with 60% or less free and reduced status no longer receive any e-rate dollars. 2017-18 is our 30% year with this amount decreasing to 10% in the 2018-19 grant year and ultimately no e-rate dollars in 2019-20 for telephony services unless something changes under the current administration and FCC leadership.

Our next cycle year for 2018-19 we will look at applying for some additional infrastructure dollars for access points at the middle school as we look at costs for some of the Apple grant items going forward versus folding into our existing infrastructure.

Servers

Soon arriving will be our newest virtual server to our server fleet which will run several virtual server instances accomplishing 2 things - allowing us to eliminate 3 or 4 servers that are approaching their useful life of 6 and 7 years as well as having a hot backup of our data in Babb for off site storage. This will also serve as our solution for disaster recovery in our emergency planning. If things go wrong in the Browning proper such as an extended power outage or major flooding, with a few mouse clicks, we would be back up and running to continue district operations.

Summer planning

It's hard to believe, but already we are planning our summer work. The larger projects on the docket this summer are the upgrading of our time clock software, upgrading firmware on our switches, several server upgrades to the latest Server 2016 operating system, several updates to our Apple servers as well as general items getting ready for the next school year such as imaging Macbooks, wiping/cycling iPads at the middle school, blowing dust bunnies out of projectors and more.