



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

12A. Report

Date: November 24, 2008

SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY/INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

BOARD GOAL: All students will achieve educational excellence.
All systems in the Keller Independent School District will be effective, efficient, and accountable in support of the District's mission.

FISCAL NOTE: Budgeted Funds, 411 State Technology Funds, Bond Funds

Background Information:

- The 2008 Technology Bond program will be addressed
- An update of the KISD Three-Year Technology Plan will be presented
- This annual report details the status of all areas within the technology department

Administrative Considerations:

- 2008 Technology Bond Update
A preliminary timeline for the installation and deployment of all technology approved in the 2008 Bond was presented at the November 13th District Technology meeting. The Committee is currently reviewing the current Classroom Technology Standard and will make recommendations regarding the deployment of instructional technology.

The preliminary draft document indicating the time frame for installation and deployment of classroom technology is attached. The network infrastructure will be upgraded first, followed by the upgrade of the current IP phone system to comply with the enhanced 911 feature recommended by the Tarrant County 911 service. Classroom technology upgrades are scheduled to begin in June of 2009.

- KISD Three-Year Technology Plan
The current three-year technology plan (2009-2011) was submitted for a one year approval for the 2008-2009 school year. The original three-year plan referenced planned activities and resources funded from the 2008 Bond. At the time of submission to TEA for approval, it was unknown if bond funding for technology would be a reality. With the passage of the 2008 bond, the goals and activities of the 2009-2011 District Technology Plan may be implemented. The District Technology committee will continue to monitor and refine the plan to integrate fully with the District's Strategic Plan and KISD curriculum. The updated plan will be resubmitted to TEA for approval of the remaining two years covered.

In conjunction with the strategic objective of the technology plan in providing opportunities for innovative technology-infused learning environments, Trinity Meadows Intermediate School is in the process of launching a technology pilot in a fifth grade classroom. This pilot will provide mobile devices for students to use at home and school for curriculum delivery and collaboration. The District has been working with vendors to fund this pilot at no cost to the District.

In addition, several members of the District Technology Committee have been researching the feasibility of a technology/career type learning facility for the future. Board Trustee, Lara Lee Hogg, Principal Rick Westfall, C.T.E. Director Sheila Grubbs and others visited Mansfield's Ben Barber Technology Center last month. Visits are also scheduled for Frisco ISD, Denton ISD, Coppell ISD and various magnet schools in the Dallas ISD.

- **Instructional Technology**

The Instructional Technology Department under the direction of Lisa Ham and a staff of four facilitators has provided the following technical professional development opportunities for KISD employees:

Summer of 2008 Training

- 6 Podcasting Academies for High School Administrators and teachers with 75 ipods distributed
- 57 Microsoft Outlook workshops for all employees
- 16 New Hire Workshops
- 103 Log-In Verification Sessions for all employees

Sharepoint Project

- Campus web pages - All campuses have been trained to input and maintain campus web information. All sites are consistent and follow guidelines established by the District.
- Beginning the implementation of teacher web pages - All KISD instructional personnel have a district created template for their web site. Teachers have the ability to add as much content as is needed.
- K-Connect pages - Training is under way for all KISD employees on the use of K-Connect, the District's information portal.

With coordination with the Curriculum and Instruction Department and High School Executive Director, 75 promethean boards were purchased through the high school allotment. We have trained the teachers who will serve as the campus contacts. Additional training will be provided for all teachers participating in this project.

Mobile laptop carts for each high school have been purchased to provide student additional access to wireless technology. All ninth grade students in the District will be participating in an on-line assessment of their technology literacy in compliance with the SBEC recommendations and the Technology TEKS.

- Information Technology

The Information Technology Department is responsible for the student and finance/HR information systems, electronic grade book, Ask TED (Texas Education Directory), and PEIMS reporting. Betty Hull, Director, and a staff of three analysts and two programmers comprise this department. Upgrading to the new version of the Financial/Human Resources system, E-Finance Plus is a major focus for the Information Technology department. The upgraded system is scheduled to go live in January.

The programmers completed an application this spring to automate the KISD job fir and student transfer process. Keller is the leader in the automation of these processes. Presently the KISD curriculum is being converted to a more user friendly, searchable web-based format. Programmers are assisting departments in developing web-based systems for the management and publishing of information. Microsoft's SharePoint will be used as the delivery system to replace the current KISD portal. SharePoint will also be the framework for the newly designed KISD website. The KISD web committee meets regularly to evaluate the KISD website.

- Network Services

The Network Services Department consists of a Director, Vaughan Hamblen, a server administrator, a desktop support specialist, a phone support specialist and four level 3 technicians. The Network Services Department is responsible for the District's centralized servers, E-mail system, network applications, cabling infrastructures, back-up systems, and all hardware/software.

Microsoft Migration – Over the summer, Novell's Netware and GroupWise was replaced with Microsoft Active Directory and Exchange 2007. All 10,000 workstations and laptops were successfully reloaded and converted to work on the new Microsoft system.

Spam – A new email spam system was implemented using Microsoft Hosted Services. This is a Microsoft Forefront solution that has greatly improved the handling of spam. The hosted service also creates a location for incoming email to be held up to seven days in the event of internet connectivity issues.

Virus/Malware – Microsoft Forefront has been implemented as the anti-virus/malware solution. The Forefront had issues going into the start of the year. Microsoft sent engineers to identify and address the issues. The forefront solution is successfully handling malware and viruses at this time.

Infrastructure – The maintaining of hardware has been successfully managed over the summer but hardware continues to fail. A core component at Central high School was recently lost due to lightning. The component is no longer supported and was not under a maintenance agreement. A temporary solution was quickly deployed and remains functional at this time.

IP Telephony – 911 concerns were discussed and identified. A plan to correct any critical issues has been completed. Implementation of the enhanced 911 features is an ongoing process and will continue through 2010.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joe Griffin
Executive Director of Technology