

Technology Department Report August 2025

Since the last Board Report, the Technology Department has been active in assisting projects such as:

- Stacy Fisher finished cleaning and power washing all the Chromebooks at the JrSr High and Elementary Schools. She continued relabeling all the Chromebooks at the JrSr High School and applied new asset tags. In addition to those tasks, she also updated Google Admin with the new information from these efforts.
- Liane Kamp SUBMITTED NO REPORT
- Patrick Tucker was working on deploying Bark (content monitoring software for Google Drive) for Freedom Acres with already 1.7k activities analyzed keeping our students safe. He has also been cleaning the tech room in prep for our Server room build out.
- Ben Fox has spent some significant time re-imaging ICCC Computer Programming's classroom laptops, the ICCC open lab laptops and the majority of ICCC desktop computers to Windows 11.
- Robert Silvernail has spent part of July supporting SCS county-wide students participating in programs at the Ionia Free Fair, prepping for expanded electronic door access and security systems, and planning lessons for a new elective offering to Saranac students who are interested in IT and/or Auditorium productions.
- John has continued to spend some significant time working on the Internet Access change to the MISEN, the pace at which Spectrum has moved on the project since initially requesting the help in February is amazing. The first fax line converted from our prior telecommunications carrier to Verizon Wireless was completed with great speed and success, now the two remaining fax lines are slated for migration the week of August 11.

The Student Information System Change

Last summer we begin initial preparations for the work in transitioning our Student Information System from Skyward SMS 2.0 to Skyward Qmlativ. In discussing this with the Superintendents, a request for considering a full change from Skyward Inc was made. After some deliberations, John was tasked with investigating the possible options. In late 2024 the four leading providers were sent our RFI details. By the start of February the last of the providers sent a response. Two were eliminated by the Technology Directors of the local districts. The remaining two were notified of their status as districts submitted staff to participate in a county-wide evaluation committee. These staff represented all facets of a district's functions (principal, educator, pupil accounting, enrollment specialist, technology support, etc.). This group of 18 managed to find common time among them to meet with the two providers in late May for a 2hr presentation on both products.

There was a request for a follow up meeting of up to 4 hours to address 8 topics that the committee members wanted further information and clarification about. Those meetings were scheduled for June 23rd and 25th. Once those were completed, the recordings were shared with the committee members so they could review them, and if someone was unable to attend, they had almost two weeks to review the video. At that point, a survey was sent out to the committee members asking for the email address and then their preference. That was sent out July 16th, and stayed open until July 28th due to some folks' contractual days and vacation days having them out of the office. The results were shared July 28th once the last submission was made. The committee's preference was 81.25% for PowerSchool and 18.75% for Skyward Qmlativ. We are now in preparation for the presentation to the Superintendents on August 18 to make the final decision. Then the full costs of both options will be presented for consideration.