

Board Report - Technology Department Update

Focus Areas: Instructional Applications, Communication, Devices, Security, Professional Development, and Infrastructure Upgrades

Khanmigo Integration

Overview: Khanmigo, an AI-powered tutor from Khan Academy, is being implemented district-wide to support personalized learning and streamline instructional tasks. Unlike traditional AI tools, Khanmigo guides students through problem-solving, fostering critical thinking and independence.

Update: Since the initial training has been completed, the focus has shifted to implementing these resources and providing ongoing teacher support. Teachers are beginning to integrate Khanmigo into their instructional practices.

Rooms Communication Tool

Overview: The Rooms platform provides a unified, secure space for teacher, student, and family communication.

Update: Staff will receive dedicated in-service training in April, with a full rollout planned for April 21st. This platform will enhance communication efficiency and transparency across the district.

Hardware Inventory Assessment

Overview: The department is conducting a complete inventory of Chromebooks, MacBooks, and iPads to ensure devices meet educational demands.

Focus Areas:

- **K-3 iPads:** Prioritizing refresh cycles to support instructional applications and assessments.
 - **Grades 3-9 Devices:** Reviewing devices for curriculum alignment, assessment needs, and long-term usability.
 - **Refresh Priority:** Updates for classrooms with devices that only meet minimum testing requirements (e.g., NWEA) will be prioritized to ensure functionality and longevity.
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Cybersecurity Initiative

Overview: This initiative enhances district-wide cybersecurity and is funded by the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP).

Solutionz Partnership:

- Identifying vulnerabilities
- Assessing defenses
- Providing tailored security recommendations
- Conducting cyber safety training

Update:

- A vulnerability scan was conducted in early December to analyze district devices for potential risks. Solutionz is reviewing the scan data, and we anticipate receiving their security recommendations soon.
 - This initiative aligns with our ongoing efforts to strengthen digital security protocols across all educational platforms.
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VR Management Platform

Overview: The district currently has ten Oculus VR headsets, but deploying them effectively has been challenging without a dedicated management solution.

Next Steps: The technology department is exploring a VR management platform that will:

- Enable oversight of student usage to ensure engagement in educational applications.
- Provide tools for teachers to monitor and guide student interactions within VR.
- Allow for seamless deployment of pre-approved educational content.

Update: A demo of a potential solution will take place soon, and further updates will be provided after evaluation.

Category 2 E-Rate Proposal

Overview: The district has submitted Form 470, marking the final year of a five-year E-Rate funding cycle.

Update: The district requests bids to replace network switches to improve connectivity and support increasing digital learning demands.

Wireless Upgrades

Overview: The district is adding six wireless access points to replace older units and improve connectivity in key areas.

Update: These access points will enhance wireless coverage in the front lobby of the elementary and middle school commons, providing better connectivity.

Professional Development: ASTE Conference

Overview: This month Eight educators will attend the Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) conference, which promotes access, connectivity, and technology integration in education.

Attendees:

- Jakyle Williams
- Noelle Bell
- Alice Cumps
- Beau Ward
- Dustin Crump
- Tim Shumway
- Erin Hofacre
- Jon Kludt-Painter

Conference Benefits: Attendees will gain access to best practices, advanced technology strategies, and peer connections that support district goals. The conference will also be a professional development opportunity to enhance educational technology integration across classrooms.
