

## Technology Department Report DECEMBER 2024

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

- Stacy Fisher had another Chromebook cart setup and put in place, this time for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. She also worked on completing some Chromebook screen replacements, instead of having to send them out for third-party repair.
- Liane Kamp has focused on the IlluminateEd and Skyward data exchange, drilling down into the errors to best determine why they occurred and how-to instruct staff on the way to prevent such issues in the future. Preparations for the upcoming Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) data gathering have begun as well.
- Patrick Tucker has worked with ICCC instructors on how-to best utilize the GoGuardian software they have access to now. This affords the instructors to see what students are seeing on their individual Chromebooks, keeping them on-task and focused on their learning in the classroom.
- Ben Fox has been working on preparing and configuring the new firewall purchased earlier.
- Robert Silvernail has been working through tickets, and automating the Meal Magic (food service software) import of data into Skyward, and updating some of the Disaster Recovery Planning documents.
- John was helping get the new Disaster Recovery Plan templates prepared to use as we migrate from the old documentation method. With the weather truly turning to winter, the Skylert signup email was sent to staff 12/02/24. However, the storm of 12/04/24 came before the new entries were put into the system, so the 12/05/24 closure missed some new staff.

### Meeting of the Minds! Part Deux

As a mirror of the meeting a group from Technology, Special Education & Early On had with a Skyward support tech going over some of the errors and oddities that have been experienced recently, the group met with an IlluminateEd tech this month. The intent was to share what had been learned from the Skyward meeting, and to bring that to the table in discussion with the IlluminateEd tech. While some progress was made in determining some of the possible causes, it is the opinion of the group that a joint meeting with tech support from both products is likely necessary.

### MSUG 2024

Liane, Robert and John all attended the Michigan Skyward User Group Conference in Grand Rapids November 20-21, 2024. This conference is specific to Skyward, our Student Information System. There are a variety of different "tracks" to follow in the offered sessions. Over the course of a day-and-a-half, there were 11 session times. Those 11 sessions offered a total of 143 topics. Of the 143 topics, 87 were for the Student Information System (11 of the new version, 76 of the existing version) and 50 were for the Financial System (15 of the new version, 35 of the existing version), and 6 Special Topic Sessions. It is not unheard of to want to be in two places at the same time when session topics of interest are offered at the same time. In a couple of these instances, we were able to determine how we could still get the information from sessions we could not attend personally.

## Bring on the Births!

In fulfilling a request from the ICCC Plant & Animal Science classroom to place a camera in the barn last year, work began on creating a live-streaming feed for when the animals are birthing. This way, people may watch without having to be physically present. There was a mishap earlier this year with a pig (or two) getting on their hind legs and swatting at the power cables, this ended up with the low voltage cables being gnawed upon and ending the functionality of the camera. A new camera was purchased, so Ben & Patrick took to mounting the camera and tucking the cables in such a way to prevent any curious animals from interrupting the feed going forward. A second camera was ordered to provide additional coverage in the barn.