

TECHNOLOGY

500 Washington Street Chelsea, MI 48118 P: 734.433.2208 F: 734.433.2218 www.chelseaschools.org

To: Board of Education

From: Ryan Spencer

Re: Technology Board Report, September 2025

Date: 9/3/2025

Dear Board of Education,

We are excited to welcome our students and staff back into our buildings! The technology team dedicated a great deal of effort this summer to ensure we were ready for the start of the 2025–26 school year. While we are now nearly through our second week, the team continues to respond quickly to help tickets, emails, phone calls, and drop-ins.

Over the summer, Interstate Security completed the intercom upgrade at North Creek, which was the final building in the district to receive this improvement. With the project now complete, every school has a modernized entry intercom that provides safer and more consistent access management.

Students in grades 3 and 8 also received new iPads as part of our updated tech cycle. This is the first year the devices no longer include headphone jacks, so we purchased dongles for students in preparation. I have been working with South Meadows and Beach to establish an efficient system for distribution to ensure students continue to have reliable tools for learning.

At Chelsea High School, we completed significant upgrades to the A/V system in the commons. The project included relocating the cabinet from the school store into the commons, installing a new projector, and upgrading the screen by replacing the manual wall-controlled model with a fully automated version relocated to the second floor for better visibility and use. We also added two 75-inch TVs, new speakers, and microphones. Staff and students are already making daily use of this improved space for daily lunch announcements, presentations, and classroom activities. In addition to the commons, we installed several TVs throughout the high school, with a few more still to come. These displays connect with Rise Vision software to broadcast daily announcements and afterschool events, giving students, staff, and visitors better access to timely information and encouraging greater school engagement.

Doug Whitsel and I continued our work with Electrocomm to purchase and implement the district's new portable and mobile radios. We are coordinating with Ross Potgiesser to install repeaters at CHS and BMS, which will strengthen in-building coverage for both buildings. On

Friday, August 29, new radios were installed on all buses. While we experienced a few initial challenges, our vendor was on-site to resolve them, and we anticipate a smooth rollout of the portable radios once they arrive.



TECHNOLOGY

500 Washington Street Chelsea, MI 48118 P: 734.433.2208 F: 734.433.2218 www.chelseaschools.org

We were also fortunate to welcome new team members over the summer. Brennan Bagbey, a 2023 Chelsea graduate, began in May, and John Aydelotte joined in July after relocating to Chelsea with his wife from Colorado. Both have already made a positive impact, and several staff members have shared how much they enjoy working with them. We also benefited from the contributions of our summer intern, Bradley Dunn, who played a valuable role in preparing student iPads and supporting our projects.

Finally, as you know, Doug and I have submitted a recommendation for a district-wide visitor management system. We are grateful for your consideration of this important step in strengthening safety and security across all of our schools.

Respectfully,

Ryan Spencer, Director of Technology Chelsea School District