

Technology Department Report MARCH 2025

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

- Stacy Fisher deployed and installed 17 new wireless access points at the Jr/Sr High School; created, printed and laminated all Clever (single sign-in) badges for Kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms; and still worked on the normal technology requests that were submitted.
- Liane Kamp submitted the completed Civil Rights Data Collection submission for the ISD & Rural Schools; worked on the Spring Collection for the Rural Schools; and installed/applied the February Release of the Skyward software update which is one of three major updates a year requiring all users to be out of the system to be performed.
- Patrick Tucker has taken the lead in the documentation phase of our phone system switchover; completed the installation of a smaller, more effective data rack in the Special Education closet late on a Friday afternoon/evening; and has been leading in the cleanup of the server room.
- Ben Fox completed the required MDE Assessment Security Training in preparation for the state testing coming next month; updated the ICISD network documentation in preparation for the switch in Internet providers soon; and assisted HVAC contractors to use our VPN software to more securely connect to our network and devices from remote locations.
- Robert Silvernail provided no report.
- John completed the installation of the new card access reader at the Autism Education Center entrance and now configuring the screen reader to grant access to the building; working with Spectrum Business Internet to properly configure equipment in preparation for the Internet service switch to the MISEN; making the decisions for this year's e-Rate funded items, where the district pays approximately 20% of the cost of the items.

Statewide Device Purchasing

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, John participated again with the REMC (Regional Education Media Center) Device Purchasing hands-on testing and selection. This is the program where Michigan school districts are able to purchase technology items (laptops, Chromebooks, desktops) off a pre-selected list tested by education technology support staff. The devices are rated and ranked on topics such as durability in a classroom setting, reliability of the casing, and performance in a classroom setting. John has been participating in the process since 2013, twelve years now!

The Paperwork Purge

John started a purge of inherited binders, folders and other printed copies of various forms, memos and notes that were present in the overhead cabinets of his office when he started as Director of Technology. The realization that most had not been referenced since that August 2010 start date, and the ones that have been, were now scanned and stored digitally in the Technology Department data drive. Some of the relics found were from as far back as 1988 when the proposal was made to add Ionia Public Schools to the ICISD's AS400 Data Server for student management, payroll and finance.