**DATE:** 11/11/2024

**TITLE:** Technology Services

**TYPE**: Information

**PRESENTER(S):** Amy Thuesen, Director of Technology

**BACKGROUND:**
Technology Services designs, implements, and supports the technology infrastructure and resources in this district. This includes: network and communications, hardware and software, and technology training and integration.

**Technology Advisory Team**
- This team does not meet in November.

**Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment**
- Our district submitted Part I of the application for the eRate Cybersecurity Pilot. This Pilot funds selected districts with approximately $40 per student to help pay for infrastructure or software that improves Cybersecurity posture. Nationwide there are only 200 million dollars set aside for this pilot, so it will be highly selective. We should receive notification in the first quarter of 2025 if our district has been selected to submit Part II of the Pilot application.
- Since spring 2023 we have leveraged CISA to conduct scans of our external facing network ports. This past month, our Cybersecurity partners at SWWC helped us to install a basic internal network scanning tool that helped to reveal vulnerabilities in our current system. The network and systems administration teams are hard at work mitigating the vulnerabilities that were found during the first scan. We will continue to scan on a monthly basis in order to detect and mitigate new internal vulnerabilities.

**District-wide MTSS**
- The Technology Department continues to work towards improving communication with families about students and technology use. Our big step forward this past month was joining the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) program. This is a free service that provides districts with access to a Family Engagement Toolkit with easy to share and multilingual family resources. In October we shared an Online Safety webinar link with families through the Packer Bulletin. This webinar was provided in both English and Spanish. In November, we will be sharing information about screen time and parental controls.
- In October both the Tech Director and the Ed Tech Specialist had the opportunity to meet with parents in person to discuss technology at school and at home. We were

invited by Carla Conradt and Lynn Hemann to speak at the monthly Spanish Parent meeting and it was really valuable to be in the room with parents to make sure they understood how technology is and isn't used at school, and to provide tips for appropriate technology use and safety in the home.

**Packer Profile**

- The first goal outlined in the Technology Plan under Packer Profile is "To be fully in place by the fall of 2027, establish a digital learning ecosystem that promotes student success, career readiness, and responsible use." Our focus this school year is on making sure that the district's technology ecosystem supports the standards, curriculum, and instructional model. Currently, we are working with various district stakeholders to evaluate and proposed needed adjustments to enterprise software and hardware. Discussions have focused on:
  - New standards, classes, and curricular software and ways we can measure the impact technology tools have on learning.
  - Student data privacy and its implications for technology use and access. This impacts the use of learning software at certain ages and from certain vendors.
  - Artificial Intelligence and how our district can lean into this new tool while remaining true to learning needs and safety.
  - Student:device ratios and the research around learning with technology.
  - Places where there are gaps or missing tools.

**Excellence in Resource Management**

  - We are gearing up to select and purchase student devices for the 25-26 school year. This will include any 1:1 tablets or laptops, shared devices, and computer labs. As mentioned above, there are many variables that affect device selection, and while learning is the main driver of technology decisions, resource management is an important consideration as well.
    - Grades K-4 are of special focus since the 1:1 devices in those grades were purchased with ESSR and ECF funds to support distance learning. Now that distance learning requirements are in the past, we will need to develop a path forward for appropriate student:device ratios and use in K-4.
    - Additional discussion centers around touchscreen laptops in the 5-12 grades. Touchscreen devices have been used in these grades for the past 4-6 years. Touchscreen device prices are higher, and replacement screens are also more expensive than non-touch screen replacements. Touchscreens also provide students with more tactile opportunities to use technology. More conversation will take place regarding the impact of and need for touchscreens on student devices.