Brownwood ISD Technology Board Report
March 19, 2018

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to give an update on technology projects that have been taking place in the district over the last few months.

Current Projects

Promethean ActivPanels at Coggin Intermediate School

Promethean ActivPanels are interactive smart TV's that allow teachers to present instructional material in a unique way that really engages the students. The touch screen and software allows the teacher to present their lessons and get the students to interact in ways that have not been possible before.

The Promethean ActivPanels have been installed at Coggin Intermediate School for all 4th and 6th grade classrooms. 5th grade was completed last year. This brings the total number of ActivPanels at that campus to 41.

The other three elementary campuses have Promethean ActivBoards in their classrooms. They function very similar to the ActivPanels, but instead of a TV, it uses an interactive whiteboard and projector.

Raptor Technologies Visitor ID System

Brownwood ISD is continually looking at ways we can improve the safety and security of our students and staff. One of the latest steps we have taken is the implementation of Raptor Technologies Visitor ID System.

The Raptor system will scan a visitor's ID (driver's license, state ID card, etc.) and check it against a nationwide sex offender database. Raptor does not collect any data from the ID. It only compares the name and birthdate with the database.

After a person's ID is scanned, a visitor badge is printed for them. The software will record when a visitor comes and when they leave. With the Raptor software, a designated staff member can quickly see who is on the campus at any given time.
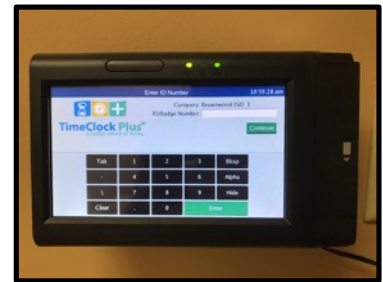
If a visitor is flagged in the system, it discreetly notifies the administrators of the campus so that they can address the issue. Custom alerts and flags can be set in the system district wide as an extra security measure.

Door Access Control for High School and Middle School

The door access control system at high school and middle school will be upgraded within the next week or two. The current system is very outdated and unreliable. This new system will upgrade the hardware at both locations and be managed from a centrally accessible server. Badges can be programmed and distributed for users to gain entry to the buildings. Doors can be locked or unlocked remotely using the access control interface. The upgrade will improve the physical security and accountability these two campuses.

TimeClock Terminals at Campuses

New TimeClock terminals have been configured and installed at some locations around the district. These terminals allow employees to either clock in/out manually or scan the barcode on their employee badge. The terminals make the process a bit simpler and have a failsafe feature that stores personnel clock times in the event of a network outage.

Teacher Laptop Replacement

The technology department is continuing to replace teacher laptops this year. We have been replacing the older MacBooks with new 13″ MacBook Airs. There is a significant increase in performance and reliability over the older models. Our plan is to have 1/5 of all teacher laptops replaced this year.

Administrative Desktop Replacement

Campus support computers have been getting replaced this year as well. It is important for these desktops to function correctly as they are used constantly to perform day to day school related business. The goal is to have at least 1/5 of these replaced throughout the district.

Upcoming Projects

- Security upgrades at the campuses
  - Maps have been completed for all campuses
- Student laptops will be purchased soon to prep for next year
- Looking into different phone systems for the district to save on monthly charges