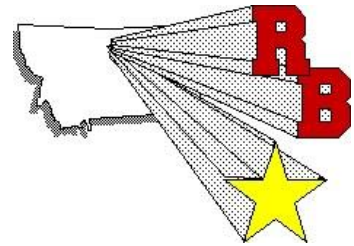


Technology Department

March 6, 2019

IT Director – Robert Parker



The district had a 3-day training for implementing a new Infinite Campus POS system in the cafeteria. There were some problems though as Infinite Campus was 2 days late turning on the new module in our tenant and the 10-key pad we were sent is defective and needs to be returned for refund. Despite this, IT did get the system up and running and we are currently using the new system as of 3/4/2019. There are some hiccups as always when implementing a major change like this but in the long run this will give us better tracking of our meals served and save time on generating reports.

IT finalized e-rate for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year on Tuesday 3/5/2019. The total equipment we plan to purchase is upwards of \$70K but the FCC will be paying 85% of the costs. With this equipment IT will be upgrading the entire district's network, including Wi-Fi. This upgrade will keep the school's network on pace with technology for the next several years. As we plan to rollout new camera systems and replace the old one, the timing on this upgrade is great. This concludes the final year of this e-rate cycle. What funding we receive for the next cycle is unknown at this point but given the popularity of e-rate I would expect this program to be ongoing.

Microsoft recently announced that Windows 7 would no longer be supported after January 2020. As a consequence, IT will be putting Windows 10 on all the district's computers. Many of our laptops are already running Windows 10 as well as the district Surfaces. The upgrade will be time consuming but in the long run, it will allow IT to administer our computers with Azure AD instead of AD on a local server running Server 2016. Becoming more cloud based will be less costly as the district will no longer need to purchase and maintain local server hardware and local data backup equipment.

IT is very close to implementing the district's new inventory system. It is a WASP system. This will be a huge improvement over our current system which entails an Excel spreadsheet. Unlike the current system, WASP facilitates inventory changes made by a handheld scanner or an app used on a phone or iPad. Currently everything is being entered manually. Amanda Lamas is working on converting the existing spreadsheets into a format that can be imported into WASP. That is the final step in getting the new system up to date with our current inventory and we will make the switch.

iLivingGroup will be installing the new camera system in the Elementary in the upcoming weeks. The cameras and materials have been ordered and should be arriving very soon. This installation will take some time as new CAT6 cabling needs to be ran to support each camera. Due to the disruptive nature of the work, it will need to be done afterhours, on weekends and on breaks. As a consequence, the installation will take some time to complete.

IT will be attending the annual META meeting in Helena on March 17-18. This meeting is a great opportunity to learn what other schools around Montana are doing in IT and to meet some of our sales reps and vendors to discuss new products and resolve any questions, etc.