KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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13C.   Report   Date: November 12, 2007

SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY

BOARD GOAL: All students will achieve educational excellence.
All systems in the Keller Independent School District will be
effective, efficient, and accountable in support of the District's
mission.

FISCAL NOTE: Budgeted Funds, 411 State Technology Funds, Bond Funds

Background Information:

- This annual report details the status of all areas within the technology department
- The new KISD Three-Year Technology plan is currently being developed
- The 2006 Technology Bond program will be addressed

Administrative Considerations:

- Instructional Technology
  The Instructional Technology Department is comprised of a Director, Lisa Ham and a staff of four technology facilitators with a secretary. Technology professional development for teachers and staff is a major focus with over three hundred new teacher trained this summer. New teacher training focuses on the instructional and administrative applications teachers uses daily. In addition to training new teachers, the Instructional Technology Department has launched the following this year:

  - Gaggle - Filtered Student e-mail and blogging
  - Implementation and training on 26 Laptop carts(438 laptops at 14 campuses
  - Integration of Technology Application TEKS into curriculum
  - Integration of the K-8 technology textbooks
  - Campus website training - teacher websites
  - 33 after school and summer workshops
  - Podcasting academy for teachers and administrators
  - Geocaching classes
  - American Film Institute workshop

  Instructional Technology facilitators are assigned to campuses and meet regularly with the staff for on-site technology professional development.

- Information Technology
  The Information Technology Department is responsible for the student and finance/HR information systems, electronic grade book, AskTED(Texas Education Directory) and PEIMS reporting. Betty Hull, Director, and a staff of three analyst and two programmers comprise this department. Upgrading to the new student information system, E-School Plus, has been a major focus for the Information Technology department. While the new system provides more functionality and ease of use, some issues still exist with the interface to other District third-party software. All of the vendors are working together with the KISD staff to resolve the issues that remain.

  The board approved automated contact system, School Messenger, is being installed and will be functioning by the end of the month. This system will not only notify parents of a student absence, but also allows the instructional staff to send messages via phone or e-mail to parents regarding grades, assignments, reminders, etc…

  The programmers completed an application this spring to automate the KISD job fair and student transfer process. Keller is the leader in the automation of these processes. Presently the KISD curriculum is being converted to a more user friendly, searchable web-based format. Programmers are assisting departments in developing web-based systems for the management and publishing of information. Microsoft's Share Point will be used as the delivery system to replace the current KISD portal. Share Point will also be the frame work for the newly designed KISD web site. The KISD web committee meets regularly to evaluate the KISD web site.

  Network Operations
  The Network Operations Team is lead by Vaughan Hamblen, Network Administrator, and a staff of six who maintain the District's centralized servers, E-mail system, network applications, cabling infrastructures, back-up systems, and all hardware/software. In addition, twenty-one campus technicians provide on-site support to the District's 35 facilities. As part of the current technology plan and 2006 Technology Bond program, the Network Operations Center (NOC) was renovated this past July. New electrical and mechanical systems were installed to manage the current technology requirements as well as provide for growth. Last month the newly installed cooling system for the NOC failed resulting in several thousand dollars of damage to network equipment while also rendering email, and several other systems inaccessible for several days. The vendor of the failed equipment is working with the District on a compensation plan for the damages incurred.

  Recent vacancies in the Network Operations area have led to restructuring of the department. Network technicians are being crossed trained and new daily operation procedures have been established. Due to recent e-mail issues and vendor support, the District will migrate to Microsoft and Exchange/Outlook soon. The move to Microsoft will allow easier collaboration through networked applications and increased vendor support. A detailed migration plan has been developed for this project.

Consultants are on site this week to interview departments regarding back-up storage and data disaster recovery plans. Funds for this project were approved by the Board of School Trustees last month. The hardware has been purchased and will be configured based on the needs determined from the interview process.

In addition, 1,000 new teacher and student computers are being delivered and set up this week. Over the next several weeks, student laptop carts will also be delivered and set up at the five intermediate school campuses that are due for technology replacement this year. Also, labs at each of the secondary campuses older than three years are being replaced at this time.

The new Xerox multi function devices are also being delivered and set up this week. By Thanksgiving break, all campuses should have their new units on site.
The on-site Xerox technician has already begun and is currently housed at Eagle Ridge Elementary.

- Three-Year Technology Plan
  The current 2005-2008 Three-Year Technology Plan was originally approved February 28, 2005. The new Three Year Plan is being developed by the KISD Technology Advisory Committee comprised of teachers, students, administrators, parents, community members, curriculum coordinators, executive directors and directors. The plan represents KISD technology in four areas: Teaching and Learning; Professional Development; Administrative and Support Services; and Hardware/Infrastructure. In the plan, technology will be integrated with the KISD curriculum in all areas. Classroom technology standards will be further refined and a ten-year technology replacement cycle will be developed with budget implications. The draft of the plan will be completed by November 30, 2007 and reviewed by campuses and department during the months of December and January for comments. The final draft will be present to the Board of School Trustees in February of 2008 for approval.

- 2006 Technology Bond Update

  IP Phone Upgrade at Campuses - $271,524- All campuses that previously did not have voice mail have been completed. Nine campuses will receive IP phone upgrades during the summer of 2008.

  NOC Upgrade - $477,532 –Blade servers replaced some of the existing servers to increase the capacity for software applications. Electrical and air conditioning upgrades were also be completed to ensure a suitable environment in the Network Operations Center. Renovation occurred July 1- 7, 2007.

  Media Management Upgrade - $100,000 – Four campuses did not have the district standard for media management and content. This project had been completed. Campuses receiving the upgrade were Keller High, Keller Harvel, Parkview, and Fossil Ridge High.

Wireless access – $398,970 – 28 district facilities did not have wireless access. This upgrade enabled the use of all wireless technology including tablet PCs, student laptop carts, handheld devices (Palms), and wireless IP telephony.   This project is nearing completion.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joe Griffin
Executive Director of Technology