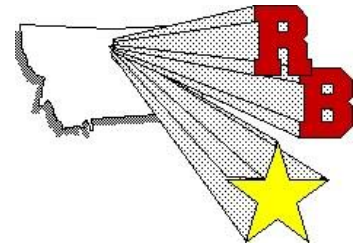# Technology Department

June 5, 2020

IT Director – Robert Parker

On May 28th the district suspended internet service for the households the district was providing for. The cost for providing these services was approximately $2000/month. In preparation for the upcoming school year, the district will be restricting the bandwidth, increasing filtering on the service provided, and possibly restricting the service to district owned devices only. These measures should drop the month to month cost to the district significantly as well as stem the demand by the community to get "free" internet from the district while still providing access to everything needed by students to do their schoolwork remotely.

The district has begun collecting devices that were handed out to students when the school was closed due to the shutdown. Devices are still being turned in now, the collection effort is going well. At this time we are still working on getting approximately 60 laptops and another 60 ipads. However, as we are receiving devices, we are not getting back the charges and cables. These charges and cables cost about $60 per device, so these missing chargers and cables will cost the district about $6000 to replace.

Now that the school year has ended, we have a chance to review the things that worked well, and what didn't work well. We have determined that iPads do not work as well as we hoped with Microsoft Teams, the districts remote learning platform. As a consequence, the district will shift to focus on using laptops for our mobile device needs. This summer IT will be purchasing many more laptops to replace the ones we didn't get back, the ones that were broken, and to replace the ipads we were using. IT will also work with the principals of each school to move towards a more conventional 1:1 device strategy. Previously, we were deploying lots of 20 devices to classrooms and setting up devices as shared devices. This was a big obstacle when we were getting ready to hand out the devices to students. Moving to 1:1 will help make device distribution much smoother and easier to track.

In order to facilitate the move to 1:1 strategy, this summer IT will be focusing on implementing a new inventory system that will increase the district's ability to track and document devices and locations with a high degree of confidence. It will also speed up the distribution process on the district's end as the paperwork involved will be electronic and recorded with barcodes and scanners.

IT is also going to purchase materials to install a UV station for disinfecting devices that get returned during the pandemic. This station will likely be located in the admin basement under the stairs or in a side room of the printshop.