

August Tech Board Report

Teachers Return

It's our crunch time - 17 new teachers and their technology have been deployed with their macbooks and iPads. The normal reconnecting things are in progress for those users still using the old windows computers tied in with cables and such.

Our Mac users without wires are just walking into their rooms and ready to teach. So we still have some teachers to convince, and always seems to be another classroom lurking without their Apple TV, but we are close to that goal district wide including at the Colony schools by the conclusion of the 1st quarter of the school year.

2019-20 E-rate cycle needs:

Following up, our consultant with IMM Inc. has walked the school district. Our/his next steps is to put together the design of our all fiber network so that we can submit the information in October to the FCC E-rate and solicit bids from companies that will do the work. There are no firm numbers but the project will probably come in around \$100,000 and we'll look to e-rate to fund 85% of that at a net cost to the district in the \$15,000 range. The change to all fiber on our backbone and retiring the copper will future proof our network needs for the next 40-50 years at a minimum.

Phone systems

I've been doing lots of research on phone systems with the ultimate goal of reducing our monthly 3 Rivers 2018-19 monthly bill from \$4100 to less than a \$1000 and our 2019-20 and beyond phone bill from \$4500 to less than a \$1000. It appears I now have a solution to do software/firmware upgrades on our existing phone system for around \$9500 which will support the new line technologies. In turn we will then convert to a SIP line technology to carry our voice calls through our existing internet connections. You've never heard of SIP, no worries, if you call to anywhere outside of the 338 exchange area - there is a 98% chance the phone company is using the SIP technology to carry your phone call. This 30+ year old technology is now available to enterprise customers such as school districts and along with the above stated phone system updates can give us a cost savings of \$25,000 in 2018-19 and over \$40,000 in 2019-20 and each year beyond.