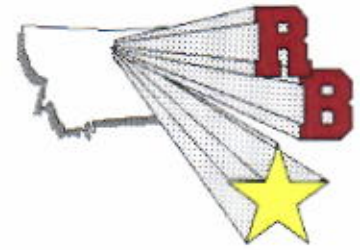# Technology Department

## January 10, 2019

## IT Director – Robert Parker

In the last month, IT has finished installing the new switch rack and caching server. There is still some tweaking to be done on the caching server before it is completely running at full potential. That should be finished in the next couple weeks. IT has finished setting up the district and devices for WIDA testing which will be concluding this month.

Last month IT tested out a Kajeet mobile Wi-Fi device around the area to see how if something like this would be feasible for us. While we were able to offer service around most of the area, the bandwidth was lacking and thus, only a handful of students would be able to get online. IT is looking into bus cameras and GPS route tracking.

IT recently learned that our firewall device will no longer be supported after this year. IT is currently looking into a new firewall solution. Unfortunately, E-rate does not cover firewall expenses but there are many affordable cloud based options.

E-rate window for Form 471 requests will be opening up this month. We have approximately $50k remaining in our e-rate budget for this session. We plan to purchase a number of switches to replace a few older Cisco switches and get our network 100% on Meraki switches. And access points to replace the older MR18 with new MR33, MR42, and MR52 access points.

The district has purchased 45 new iPads and 50 new Winbooks for the K-8. Although some of these devices are going to replace outdated and broken devices this should put K-8 at 1:1 with devices (with the addition of Gear Up iPads). Grades K-3 will all have iPads and grades 4-6 will use Winbooks. At the JH, Brown, Seiler and Tull will use iPads and Mrs. Olson will use Winbooks.

Brian Jenkins has requested to switch from full-time employee to contract status. I feel this is a good move that makes sense for both the school and him. The contract details the hours he will work over a period of time and the payment for that work. Both sums have been negotiated and we are ready to proceed with the approval of the Board.

The annual METATechED conference is coming up in March. I am requesting to attend this conference. It is March 18-19 in Helena. It will require 2 nights hotel stay and the use of a school vehicle. I have attended this conference the last two years and I find this an extremely valuable conference to meet other IT staff around Montana and share and learn what works for them and for us. In addition to the IT knowledge gained, we also share information on vendors and pricing/discounts offered on software, hardware, etc.

"Every Student Everyday!"