

Technology Department September 2017

E-rate

USAC that administers the erate program for the FCC has released Wave 14 and 16 of funding. Browning was awarded our e-rate dollars for our switch maintenance of internal connections in Wave 14 and for our Internet and phone service in Wave 16. As we have previously discussed, this is our 30% year for telephone service so the total amount is greatly reduced from what it would have been a few years ago.

Network-

Currently we have 'lit' fiber connecting Babb, the high school and middle school contracted as part of our WAN (wide area network) services with Access Montana. We are exploring putting out an RFP to vendors through the erate bidding process. Our two goals are to control our own network and more importantly saving the district monies in the long run. We believe it will make economic sense and the RFP process will allow us to see what fiber network companies may be able to do for us. This will go to record with the FCC on September 26th and we'll hope to have bids within the month following.

Helpdesk-

While it was a smoother start to the school year than in years past, we still move forward handling 10 to 30 helpdesk requests per day in addition to everything else that needs to "just" happen with phones, cameras, network, wifi and Internet. We anticipate these coming in through mid-October as we still have some teachers coming up to full speed with the various technologies in their classrooms.

Grant work-

The recent conclusion of the past years SSG Math grant will have the last of the technology items being delivered in the next week or so. Next step is the deployment and get everything from TV's mounted on walls to iPads into the hands of students at the high school.