



Keith Roberts - Director of Technology
April 2025 Board Report

I'm happy to share that our new E-Rate contracts for internet and wide area network (WAN) services are finalized, bringing an estimated savings of \$54,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. In addition to the cost savings, we're significantly increasing our bandwidth—quadrupling both our internet speed and WAN capacity. We're also joining the Illinois Century Network via a DoIT grant, which provides a free internet connection. This added resilience will be key in supporting our forthcoming voice over ip (VOIP) project by ensuring better uptime and overall performance.

In anticipation of potential tariffs and supply chain disruptions, we took a proactive approach in ordering Chromebooks for the next school year. We have already received the devices, ensuring that we are well-prepared to distribute them to students on time without unexpected cost increases or delays. We stayed on plan by purchasing touchscreen devices for the second year in a row. The additional capabilities of the device and the increased ruggedness outweigh the increased cost.

Significant improvements have been made to the Lakeview Library to enhance its functionality for both instructional use and board meetings. The upgrades include:

1. Mounted TVs for visual displays
2. An integrated sound system for improved audio quality
3. Acoustic enhancements to optimize the space for presentations and discussions

These enhancements will create a more effective meeting and learning environment for students, staff, and the community. Our hope is to relocate board meetings to this space as well.

As you know, the district administers the state's IAR and ISA assessments each year. This year, the state began transitioning to a new testing platform, ADAM. So far, the process has gone smoothly with minimal disruptions to testing. Looking ahead, we're gearing up for a busy and productive summer, focusing on key projects like replacing the phone system, processing 1,500 student Chromebooks, optimizing the network, and coordinating with HVAC and construction projects.

I want to recognize the outstanding effort of my teammate, Mr. Rusty Novotny, during my recent absences. He successfully coordinated all technology needs for the start of IAR testing—a task well within his expertise, but made even more challenging by the transition to a new testing platform and the added responsibility of supporting our partner district. His work in managing this monumental undertaking deserves appreciation.