July Technology Board Report

Over the summer, we have been working on updating many of our management systems, specifically those we use to manage our iPads, Macs, Windows, and Chrome devices.

Preparations for Next Year:

iPads and MacBooks:

Roy and Heidi have wiped and restored all but the last few iPads, preparing them for new students. Heidi and I have spent considerable time reworking Mosyle to manage our fleet of iPads more effectively.

Windows and Chromebooks:

We are migrating our Windows users to a platform called Panel, which will allow us to image machines more effectively and manage their apps and software centrally. Panel includes asset management features, and we have been adding our assets (iPads, MacBooks, iMacs, phones, Windows devices, and cameras) to the platform. This should help with future budgeting. Implementing Panel has exposed some areas of our tech stack that haven't changed since Everett Holm's time, forcing us to update our Microsoft activations and printer deployment. While beneficial, these updates have proven time-consuming.

Secretaries' iMacs:

We have replaced all but two of our secretaries' desktop iMacs. The old ones were from 2015-2017. The two remaining secretaries have requested Windows PCs to use Black Mountain without remoting into a virtual machine. We plan to have these two PCs set up before certified employees return.

Network:

I have spent significant time updating the firmware on all our switches. We had one switch fail at Bullshoe Elementary, which we were able to replace under warranty. Through this process, we have made our system more robust and simplified our network traffic.

Summary:

This summer, the technology team has focused on updating and improving our device management systems across all platforms. We've prepared iPads for new students, implemented a new management platform for Windows devices, replaced outdated iMacs for secretaries, and strengthened our network infrastructure. These improvements will enhance our ability to manage and maintain our technology assets, streamline processes, and provide better support for staff and students in the coming school year. The idea being to clean up our systems before thinking of adding anything new to our environment.