



DATE: March 9, 2026

TITLE: Technology Services

TYPE: Information

PRESENTER: Amy Thuesen, Director of Technology

BACKGROUND:

Technology Services designs, implements, and supports the technology infrastructure and resources in this district. This includes network and communications, hardware and software, and technology training and integration.

Technology Advisory Team

- This group did not meet in March and will meet again in early April. During that final meeting of the school year, we will review the districts Technology Plan, which is in year two of three.

Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment

- The Technology Department has a few big projects underway in this area and each of them will add a layer of security to our district's technology systems:
 - Microsoft's changes in cloud storage allotments are providing us the opportunity to review retention practices for user accounts and shared online content. We have created a draft of Microsoft retention practices and have shared that draft with the Superintendent and his Cabinet. These practices were created to align with the School District General Records Retention Schedule, even though this schedule does not explicitly call out digital content. The next step is for the draft to be reviewed by district legal partners for compliance with all laws and requirements.
 - District leaders are working together to develop role-based groups for security, communication, and collaboration. As we move toward automated identity management for staff, these groups will ensure that no staff member has access to content that they shouldn't.
 - For the 26-27 school year we will be able to fully manage the Chrome browser along with the Microsoft Edge browser. This will greatly improve the safety of Chrome, which will allow us to continue giving staff the option to use either Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome. Students will continue to use Microsoft Edge only.
 - A district can have their system settings tuned perfectly for online security, but a risk that can't fully be shored up is the human element. That is why the Technology Department is reviewing its practices around digital safety training and incident remediation for staff. This will likely mean tighter multi-factor authentication (MFA) and "risky user" practices starting in the fall of 26-27 school

year. One part of this will be required MFA for all district vendors and outside partners.

District-wide MTSS & Packer Profile

- As mentioned in last month's board report, the Technology Department is doing a full audit of the district's Microsoft environment, and part of that review aligns nicely with goals set forth in the APS Technology Plan:
 - Technology Tools for Collaboration – We are evaluating our use of Microsoft Teams to ensure that it provides safe and appropriate means of communication both within the district and with outside partners.
 - Accessibility Tools – Microsoft has a variety of accessibility and translation tools that we may be underutilizing.
 - Professional Development – Microsoft is constantly creating and changing products. We want to ensure that staff are aware of and know how to leverage these products.
- Autumn Hamburg, a Language Arts 9 teacher at AHS, has been developing a project for students that guides them through appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence in support of learning. This project is part of the culmination of the unit on *Romeo and Juliet*. We are looking forward to seeing the students' final product and hearing from them about how they approached the use of AI.

Excellence in Resource Management

- Plans for device management and deployment for the 26-27 school year are fully underway in the Technology Department:
 - Over the past 2-3 years we have been taking steps to fully switch management platforms for our Windows Devices. This process is almost complete, and by the end of Summer 2026 we hope to have the last of our devices switched over to our new management platform.
 - One of the benefits of the new management platform is saying goodbye to the old standby of "Reimaging" devices on a regular basis and transitioning to the process of a device "Reset" instead. A device reset does much the same as reimaging, but the user does not have to turn their device in to have it done – it can be done remotely. Additionally, it does not have to completely wipe all the user's device content.
- We continue to anticipate and monitor rising prices of technology equipment due to the Artificial Intelligence businesses buying up so many resources. So far, our technology replacement cycle hasn't been greatly impacted by new pricing.