



Technology Department

2010-11 Annual Report

Overview of Department

The Technology Department has had an extremely busy and productive year. The department consists of six full time employees responsible for all aspects of technology in the district. Part way through the year, one employee agreed to a shared time position with our ISD as a cost saving measure.

Major projects for the year included moving the district web site from an in-house system to a content management system, moving the district email system from Novell Groupwise to a Zimbra platform hosted by Merit Networks, developing a technology sustenance plan and implementing several assessment systems to inform instruction. Furthermore, this is the first full year of our 21st Century Technology Initiative.

Department Initiatives

Move district web site from an in-house system to a content management system

Since the district's first web site was created, we have maintained it using a part time web page developer. Several years ago, the school board sought to improve district communication, particularly via electronic options. At that time, the board supported a ½ time web page developer position to create and maintain content. With improvements in technology, non-technology personnel have the ability to maintain web content. Given the departure of our web developer, the opportunity arose to re-visit our web presence, convert it to a system that allows many people to add and maintain content and review the information on the site. While initially time consuming, the shared responsibility for the web site will allow for more frequent updates to keep the content fresh and useful. This process has been completed this school year. Personnel have been trained in website content maintenance.

Move district email system from Novell Groupwise to Zimbra platform

Part of the Technology Department's strategic plan is to move its server system from a Novell Linux based system to a Microsoft server system. This is being done to stay current and to develop a more stable system. One aspect of this is to move from the Novell Groupwise product to something that could be run independently. The chosen solution was to use a popular Open Source system (Zimbra) hosted in a Class I data center maintained by Merit Networks, our internet provider. Merit also provides support for this system. Additionally, this option allows the district to take advantage of a federal program to reduce the cost, while at the same time adding capabilities such as smart phone support. This project was executed during the district's mid winter break.

Develop a technology sustenance plan

The citizens in Allendale have supported the implementation of a first class technology program with the use of bond dollars. It is crucial therefore, that we have a plan in place to support and continue this program into the future. Over the course of this year, we have identified possible cost savings of \$

119,000/year, possible revenue from warranty work and set aside the revenue from the sale of the M-45 property. Furthermore, we have recognized the need to set aside additional dollars each year to sustain the program.

Implementation of instructional assessment systems

This school year we added additional assessment systems to provide data that would have a direct impact on instruction. The two most significant systems added were the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) from the North West Education Association and Dibels from the University of Oregon. These systems were used at the elementary and middle school levels. Administering these systems required a significant amount of effort at the beginning of the year with support following for the remainder of the year. Additionally, the data gathered then needed to be added to our data warehouse on an ongoing basis.

21st Century Technology Initiative

This school year represents the full implementation of the 1-1 laptop portion of our technology initiative. Last year, the middle school students received their laptops when they moved into their new building at the end of November. This year, all students had their laptops for the full academic year.

Staff Professional Development

- While technology staff persons are not required by the state to hold certifications, the help desk technicians have taken technology related classes and have a minimum of an Associates degree.
- Two staff members have attended MAEDS events to further their professional learning.
- Two staff members have taken college level classes.

Department Data

The Technology Department maintains a comprehensive inventory of all technology equipment. Current inventory consists of 5024 pieces of equipment. This includes maintaining inventory on 2000 laptops, 200 desktop units, 177 data projectors, 160 smart boards, and 154 document cameras.

Regarding the one to one laptop program, we replaced 712 power adapters, 200 hard drives, and 250 keyboards, all of them under warranty. We had 89 LCD screens broken this year. Furthermore, 2 laptops were stolen, neither were recovered.

During the 2010-11 school year, the Technology Department addressed 7349 help desk tickets. This number does not include problems common to a large number of students where it was not practical to enter a separate ticket for each student. Additionally, many questions were answered via phone and email.

Student-related Data

Following is a breakdown by building of helpdesk tickets:	Last Year
High School – 2210	3030
New Options – 411	455
Middle School – 3314	1500
Oakwood Intermediate – 562	620
Evergreen Elementary – 312	376
Springview Elementary – 291	272
Student and Parent Portal assistance – 189	109