**East Lansing**
Public Schools

September 13, 2014

**Technology Bond Update**

2013 Completed Projects:

1.  Electronic Access: Electronic exterior door locks were installed in every building. The locks were installed only on primary entrance doors or doors that had high usage. The doors are software controlled and can be locked down instantly either by using the software or by emergency buttons installed in the building main offices.
2.  Network Electronics: The first major project was replacing the 10+ year old network infrastructure hardware. This hardware provides for the connectivity of the computers, servers and wireless network. All other bond projects were dependent upon this project.
3.  Security Cameras: The secondary buildings had their cameras replaced and the elementary buildings were each equipped with 5-6 exterior cameras. The high definition cameras detect motion and record 24 hours a day. The district camera network can be monitored from any one location and is accessible to the ELPD in the case of an emergency.
4.  Laptop Carts: The secondary buildings had their laptop carts replaced (30 laptops per cart) and the elementary buildings each received one cart with the understanding that additional carts would be provided in 2014.
5.  Desktop PC replacement: The district has a rotation schedule for the replacement of desktop PC's. Prior to the bond, the oldest PC's were in the secondary buildings and were 7-8 years old. In 2013, the oldest PC's were replaced.

2014 Current/Ongoing Projects:

1.  Classroom AV: The district's classroom AV situation was of great concern prior to the bond due to the age of the equipment, the disparity in standard equipment, the financial burden related to the maintenance and upkeep, and the outdated capabilities associated with the equipment. The District Technology Committee traveled to other districts to evaluate updated classroom AV, discussed options put forth by Secant, the district technology consultant, and installed three pilot classrooms for evaluation purposes.

    One expressed concern was the investment in SmartBoards, which were mounted in almost every elementary classroom in the district. In the secondary building, there were very few interactive whiteboards (TeamBoards) and they were purchased with a math grant many years ago and were largely unused as interactive boards due to their poor performance.

    The SmartBoards are more square in their design and mounted overtop chalkboards. New projectors and video technology is more geared towards a widescreen format, projecting in a rectangle, not the square

of the SmartBoards. This is aspect ratio and was the topic of several discussions with Secant. Projecting wide screen on the square SmartBoards would cause the projected image to be too small for the classroom and the decision was made to replace the SmartBoards with large, white dry erase boards and to move the interactivity from the board to the projector.

The standard-throw projectors, ceiling-mounted about 8-10 feet away from the board, were replaced with ultra short-throw projectors, mounted directly above the boards. This enables the teacher to stand in front of the board and not block the projected image.

The projector and the new audio system are controlled via a wall-mounted unit and allows the teacher to connect laptops and other equipment to the classroom AV system.

The oldest sound systems and projectors have no resale value and will be scrapped. The newer projectors and SmartBoards do retain value and, as promoted during the pre-bond campaign, will be sold in accordance with state and district Board policy.

Red Cedar*: The Red Cedar school did not receive new classroom AV equipment. The sound system in Red Cedar was less than 5 years old and all other equipment was left in place. If it is determined that the timely sale of the projectors and SmartBoards is in the districts best interest, that information will be conveyed to the Board of Education and community at that time.

2. District Telephone System: The districts phone system was over 20 years old and was replaced during the month of August. The new phone system is VOIP, meaning it operates on the district network. Every handset in the district was replaced and the new system has advanced 911 capabilities and will enabled 911 operators to determine the room location of any incoming call. Main office handsets also have video capability and could connect to cameras, if the district decides in the future to install main entrance push-button entry ('buzzing someone in').

   Red Cedar*: The classroom phones were not replaced but the main office and other office phones were replaced to afford connectivity to the district phone system and emergency communication.

3. Network Migration: The Novell network operating system no longer met the districts educational needs and was migrated to a Microsoft network. This required the changing of all staff and student user accounts and email addresses. The new Microsoft network allows for Office 365 access for all staff and students and also provides for home-use Office licensing for students. More information on this will be forthcoming.

4. Clocks and PA: The elementary buildings received new clock and PA connectivity hardware. MacDonald also had the existing and unfinished clock system completed.

5. Laptop carts: The elementary buildings each will receive one additional laptop cart and one iPad cart. The secondary buildings will each receive three additional carts. The goal is to reach an equity in the ratio of student to computer. The District Technology Committee discussed the placement of iPads at the secondary buildings and while the decision was to not move forward with that placement, it is always a topic that can be revisited. The district now owns 29 mobile device carts.

6. Desktop replacement: The rotation schedule called for the replacement of the elementary teacher PC's, which were purchased in 2007. In 2015, select labs in the High School are due for replacement.

Future Bond Planning

The District Technology Committee is meeting September 17th at 4:00 PM in the High School Hub Facility. The Committee makes every best effort to meet the third Thursday of every month. The Committee will begin focusing on future planning, which includes: blended and online learning platforms, student and teacher classroom-created multimedia, mobile technologies, e-textbooks, and other advances for instruction and student learning.

The former Data Services Department has been renamed the Technology & Media Services department and was merged with the district building libraries to allow for centralized management and to provide for the reinventing of the libraries for them to become 21st century media centers that are focused on student and staff centered access to technology resources and information and media fluency. A plan is currently being drafted that outlines a one to three year plan for the expansion of the librarian positions and their professional development to enable them to meet the growing needs of a school media center.

Other Updates

The Technology & Media Department is also responsible for the district website and will be evaluating the future of the site and how it can better meet the needs of the community.

The district mass notification system, BlackBoard Connect, is also being evaluated to determine how it meets the needs of the district and community. One potential area of development is in the use of texting to notify parents of emergency status messages.