

Technology Board Report

Desktop Systems

We've purchased several laptop batteries for laptop carts over 2 years old due to poor performance. This has been done fairly swiftly, but did cause some disruption in the process of our investigation.

We have replaced a few power supplies in our oldest desktop PC's due to failure; however, this is an improvement from the batch we surplused this summer that had frequent motherboard failures in their last years.

We updated the cafeteria POS system for the changes in the Cafeteria staff, to hopefully improve access to information, and streamline processes for the workers.

Applications and Database

Much focus has been around how and where we keep student data from the freshmen visitation process through graduation. I have had the opportunity to be involved in several process reviews to streamline our data keeping, and improve the integrity of that data, and it's longevity. I've established a goal to minimize storing data in Excel, rather leveraging Excel as a tool to create presentable reports from data, and improving our use of Access for data that cannot be stored in SchoolDESX. Additionally, I have set a goal to review any action that includes the typing of a student name or address, so that I can offer education on how to retrieve this data from existing sources. In many instances this has already resulted in several hours or secretary time saved.

I continue to monitor the use of the Parent, District, and Student Portal 's for performance due to the nature of the technology behind them. I'm very pleased with the use, and reliability of these information sources. Currently the Parent Portal is still only gaining momentum in awareness and use, as well as the district portal, but the Student Portal internally is used widely.

The report writing in SchoolDESX is complicated, and Patti Huebel was the most versed in this skill. Due to her retirement Natalie Fatica, Patrick Holland, Jan Kennerknecht and I have been brainstorming on what data is important, and how we could more quickly provide access to SchoolDESX data for their reporting needs, without the extensive training of SchoolDESX reporting. The result of our combined efforts is Excel Spreadsheets with live links into SchoolDESX which has already improved the speed, flexibility, and integrity of access to student data for our secretary's and administration. I truly believe it's been a substantial group success.

Network and Server Systems

Our backup Tape system encountered a significant hardware failure this month. It's approximately four years old already, originally purchased in 2007. We were able to resolve the problem and repair it, and I hope to get another two years out of this very valuable hardware.