

Technology Board Report

Office 365 & Teams

We completed our migration to Office 365 for faculty to leverage Teams, OneNote, and the suite of tools from Microsoft for Remote Learning primarily in June. There were several kinks and details worked out throughout July, August, and September as we developed training, tested concepts, and addressed anomalies. I am extremely proud of our faculty and our school as a whole embracing the entire technology revolution that has happened here and providing an experience for our students that already in September is showing it's improvement over our efforts last spring.

Training

I'd like to thank Lesa Scalise for really taking a leadership role in supporting and championing for our faculty the training and adoption plan for our remote learning solutions. Along with Sandy Carr, I genuinely believe we helped our teachers "move a mountain" in a few days. It was a tremendous effort all around to provide training that was not generic, but rather involved with our organizational operations and structured for consistency centered on the student experience. I'd also like to extend my appreciation to the entire Instructional Aide group that has really embraced and supported the technology plan and eased the entire transition for our students and our faculty.

Onboarding new employees always has it's dependencies on IT. The volume this past August and September with the influx in demands has not been our proudest moments for new employee onboarding, but the accounts and data transitions are complete at this time, and again I thank Lesa Scalise and Sandy Carr for their supporting efforts.

Applications

Infinite Campus data structure was completely renovated with the assistance of Pam Lasher (High School CTE) and Pam Pence (Transition Center). This building block in Infinite Campus was the first step in organizing our data structure to prepare for our Office365 Teams integration, and promote the necessary automation for class creation in Teams. They helped make quick work of the outcome and I think the overall result will be improved intuitiveness and efficiency across the landscape for all users.

With the changes in structures, many reports and web applications required adjustments to accurately reflect these changes. This will be ongoing throughout the year.

Our helpdesk system that was internally developed in 2007 was broken unexpectedly due to technology advancements in cryptography and browser support. We had to alter several hundred lines of code to overcome the situation and will continue to improve the system throughout the year.

Navigate Prepared, or now Navigate360, required some adjustments in our data exchange with the changes we made in our structures.

Desktops

Art and Design received all new iMac's and MacBook computers; with the latest version of Adobe Creative Cloud Suite. We integrated our Adobe Creative Cloud with Office365 AzureAD for single sign-on as the Adobe license changes this past summer forced us out of perpetual machine licensing.

Computer Programming received a new software deployment per the instructor's request.

All conference rooms have been outfitted with 4K TV's, new computers, and webcams to support virtual meetings.

Clerical and administrator computer stations are being replaced with take home remote work capable devices through September and October. These job functions previously were issued hand me down computers from classrooms after they reached their primary deployment lifecycle. This however does not support the 'new normal' for administration and support roles in the imminence of building closures.

Backup Server

We will be moving our backups to Synology Active Backup that has support for both on-Premise Servers, as well as Office365 tenant data. The Office365 migration largely hijacked this project trajectory due to the landscape of cost inflation in backups associated with Office365.

Print Systems

All printers and copiers have successfully been replaced. There were several unexpected disruptions caused by this deployment from a variety of influences, COVID related included. However, at this time I can say I think we are rolling, and looking forward to a managed print contract.

High School Office Updates

Since we have a blended security system at ECTS with our phone system and locally managed building security system for access and monitoring, we've been working very tightly with the contractors installing the door in both building to get the related control points integrated into our systems.

Student Pictures

We assisted in facilitating the student picture process this year. We have since imported all the images into Infinite Campus. We'd like to thank Daniel Smith, of Daniel J. Smith Photography for an outstanding job considering the challenges with COVID and our fairly short notice scheduling needs. Daniel's ability to take the plan and run with it independently, traveling the building with his equipment to shoot 350 students, with social distancing protocol, in under 8 total hours over 4 days was truly remarkable.

Grant Purchasing

With all of the grant support to get through COVID, and the focus on technology solutions to support the shift, much time and grit was spent sourcing and acquiring technology software, hardware, and solutions. Our terrific relationship with Dell Computer Corporation eased this exponentially.

Server Systems

Our data center Server hardware was on normal lifecycle rotation for this summer. Due to Office365 migrations, COVID influence, and Grant opportunities, the original plan worked out earlier in 2019 was radically altered, and should be completed installation by the end of October. One of the genuine accomplishments of this project is our anticipated ability to provide a Windows environment with our licensed CAD, Programming, and Visual Arts software to any device with an internet connection. Another focal point of this infrastructure was to decommission the use of servers that were previously decommissioned in 2014, and recommissioned for our Surveillance and Access Controls, and envelope that system into our production environment.