



Levy Implementation Update

March 25, 2014

Technology Innovation

Wireless Upgrade

An RFP was issued for secondary wireless upgrades, and was posted to Lakota Online. PowerNet Global was awarded the bid and will be providing a Ruckus solution based on the recently released new ac wireless standard. This solution will be piloted at Liberty Junior later this month.

Network Infrastructure Upgrade

An RFP went out for the network infrastructure upgrades required to meet the recommendations of the Ohio School facilities as well as the new secondary wireless solution above. Team Fishel was awarded the bid and work will begin as quickly as coordination allows.

Internet Service Provider

As part of the Federal E-Rate process, we posted the need for Internet Service, since the district's current contract expires this summer. The contract was awarded to Time Warner, and we were able to negotiate a 60% increase in bandwidth, a brand new fiber optic build-out of connectivity to both their West Chester Hub site and their Liberty Township Hub site, and their supplying of all required equipment. This will provide, at no cost, Diverse Hub, Diverse Path and Diverse Entry, which translates to tens of thousands of dollars of savings for the district. As a result, the district will have a fully redundant internet solution coming into the Central Office data center.

Teacher Computers

District Technology established a pilot group of teachers from all buildings and worked directly with the group to test drive the latest operating system and latest version of Office with current teacher device needs. This team focused on student learning and the teacher as the facilitator of learning, not just a traditional lecturer in the front of the room. The clear choice by the strong majority was a full size laptop that converts to a tablet. This provided traditional comfort for creating content and instructional material, while also providing a variety of convertible options to meet classroom mobility needs and work one on one with students or groups of students. The final negotiated cost was very reasonable and included a full support warranty on each device for four years. Rollout planning is underway.

Online Testing Field Tests & Student Devices

Nationwide field tests for the Next Generation (online) Assessments in Math and English/Language Arts (PARCC) and statewide in science and social studies (Ohio Dept. of Education's Next Generation Assessments) are taking place at the end of March and into early April. These field tests are piloting both paper and online versions of these new assessments. Seven Lakota elementary buildings (Cherokee, Endeavor, Freedom, Hopewell, Independence, Union, VanGorden), two junior schools (Liberty and Ridge) and one high school (East) are participating in the online pilot.

All student information requirements and infrastructure items, such as network caching solutions, network upgrades, bandwidth allocation and network security for these pilots have been established in accordance with PARCC and ODE in the field test locations.



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During testing, technicians will be on site at all testing locations, infrastructure staff will be monitoring the impact of this testing and we will be gathering important data on what will be required for the full scale rollout of these assessments, grades 3-12, beginning next school year. This will involve upgrades and new fiber optic connections to increase capacity and new copper network connections to support the secondary and elementary wireless upgrades.

In addition to the new computer labs rolled out this school year, a cart of iPads has been provided to each of the participating elementary buildings, and ten tablet-sized PC laptops that convert to a tablet have been provided to the participating secondary buildings. The device for these grade levels was determined by the District Technology Committee and industry research. Building PTOs and PTAs continue to be very supportive in this area as well, with several partnering with District Technology to provide expanded devices for our students to further promote learning through technology.

Digital Learning Team

With Krista Heidenreich in place as the Director of Digital Learning, the focus is now on hiring the six Digital Learning Specialists. Interviews are currently underway. Krista will be working closely with both the Technology Dept. and the Curriculum and Instruction Dept. on planning and implementing multi-year instructional technology initiatives and evolution, district-wide.

Technical Support New Hires

Five additional System Support Technicians have been hired and four are already supporting buildings. The latest was hired this week. The current focus is training these new staff members on process and initiatives currently or soon to be underway, such as online testing field tests coming this month, new teacher device rollout, new student device rollout, etc., all while increasing support for our classrooms.

Safety and Security

The number of law enforcement officers in the schools daily has been increased from three to ten, a major commitment in the levy. Full staffing was reached earlier this month.

On June 11, all administrators will meet with the district's school resource officers for a day of in-depth training in responding to various situations that arise at school. We will be focusing on standardizing safety procedures across all buildings and preparing personnel to respond to different variables.

We interviewed six architectural firms this month to work on the safe and secure entrances project. We are selecting the architect and will have a contract ready in mid-April. Also, room numbers have been placed on exterior classroom windows, to help emergency responders. We are also finalizing grants for radios and buzzers.



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Consideration is being given to contracting with outside experts for a review of the district's security environment and capabilities, either on a one-time or ongoing basis.

We are developing a new page for the district's website, outlining all of the district's practices in regard to safety and security.

We are arranging financing so that the needed work can be done as soon as possible, with the financing to be repaid from levy funds as they arrive. This financing will also be used for the facilities work detailed below.

Operations

We are planning a major upgrade to the HVAC system at Hopewell Elementary and Hopewell Junior High School. Both buildings still use their original systems. Many inefficient window air conditioning units are in use throughout both buildings and oftentimes require us to fabricate discontinued parts. We are equipping both school buildings with central heating and air conditioning.

The work will start before the end of the current school year, but will only be done after school. During the school day the only evidence of the work should be gaps in ceiling tiles. The bulk of the work should be completed before school starts again in August. Only finishing touches should remain when students return Aug. 21.

The cost of this major work is projected at \$7.9 million. Financing is being arranged, and will be repaid with future Permanent Improvement fund revenues. Savings are being realized from doing both schools at the same time, as their proximity to each other will allow crews to work on both projects at the same time.

The only other school building in the district that needs similar work in the near- to mid-term is Creekside Early Childhood School. That work is not yet scheduled and will follow as financing allows.

Student Learning and Innovation (Grades 7-12)

Implementation of the new seven-bell day for grade 9 is on schedule. We are currently verifying student class requests. We should have final numbers by April 9. Technical issues with one class schedule for grade 9 and a different schedule for grades 10-12 have been resolved.

We are still waiting on student enrollment numbers for new course offerings (Chinese, Venture Highway entrepreneurship). Professional development for the teaching staff will be scheduled when student numbers are known. German 4 will be offered next year as an online course.



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Student Learning and Innovation (Grades K-6)

We are still on schedule to begin offering an additional day of art, music or P.E. each week beginning in fall 2014. The new elementary class schedule is being developed.

We are working to develop a different timetable for assessment of incoming kindergarteners. We want to do these assessments earlier so children can get needed intervention earlier.

On the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, we are working on exemptions and plans for promotion/retention. We have identified students who may not meet the criteria for promotion and are working closely with those students.

We've hired and begun training six Academic Coaches to service our elementary level staff and students beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

Student Learning and Innovation (all grades)

We continue to prepare to implement the new (required) Ohio Teacher Evaluation System. In March we did a professional development session with assistant principals. In April we will present the same training to principals.

A professional development summer learning series is scheduled for two sessions, one just after students' last day and one before the start of school.