FY16 (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016) Focus

Microsoft Office 365

As part of our Microsoft Education licensing, we are entitled to Microsoft's online collaboration suite, Office 365. Work is ongoing to enable the platform for use by KPBSD users.

This platform provides a rich online environment that tightly couples the desktop Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) with online counterparts that allow for collaboration and document editing without requiring a full Office installation.

No plans are currently in place to replace our existing Google Apps for Education implementation with Office 365, although the tools are similar. By enabling the Office 365 infrastructure as an *optional* tool, we can being exploring how this best fits within our existing environment.

We had hoped to complete this in August 2014, but waited for Windows 10 direction.

Target Completion: Dec 2015

Polycom Infrastructure Upgrade

There continues to be grant opportunities for videoconferencing equipment and we continue to take advantage of them. In recent years those opportunities have led to a couple of major influxes of Polycom equipment. As of July 2015, we are attempting another Polycom grant.

Target Completion: August 2016, if successful

Storage Equipment Upgrades (EqualLogic)

We replaced two devices in our EqualLogic storage network that reached "end of service life" in January 2015. We intend to re-purpose the older displaced EqualLogic devices as a remote backup site perhaps in Homer. In conjunction with our high speed fiber the EqualLogic storage would take snapshots of key data thought being we could restore service from these backups if our main facility were disabled.

Target Completion: February 2016

Windows Server Infrastructure Upgrades

We have a 5 year replacement cycle in place for our school servers. Each summer 8 school servers are replaced. Servers are purchased with the summer's tech plan computers.

This cycle also expands Windows Server 2012 R2 deeper into our infrastructure. Work is ongoing to move a number of core services over to Windows Server 2012 R2, providing the latest desktop and server support for the Microsoft platform.

Completion: August 2015

PowerSchool - Support Personnel to Attend PowerSchool University (PSU)

David Henson from our department traveled to California to attend PowerSchool University. As we become heavier invested with our own customizations in PowerSchool, this annual training is becoming critical.

Target Completion: July 2014

PowerSchool - Custom Field to Schema Table Conversion

Because of changes made to our student information system (PowerSchool), it will be required that we convert our 1000+ custom fields into newly created tables. Begun in summer 2014, this is a very involved process and will require us to modify most of the corresponding screens / reports / automated processes. Once completed, screens / reports / processes using custom fields will see a noticeable performance increase. This significant programming effort continues during Summer 2015.

Target Completion: August 2015

Revtrak Integration (Online Lunch / Fee payments / School Store)

The IT department in coordination with the Finance department are integrating online student lunch and fee payments in partnership with Revtrak. Students and Parents will be able to pay school fees and fund hot lunch balances via an online website. This integration requires modification to both our existing Finance system as well as PowerSchool.

Status July 2015 - Food Service payments are being accepted at all schools. Schools have to ability to provide an online school store for selling things like Yearbooks, School branded clothing etc. that function is working but requires the schools to work one-on-one with the Finance department on the set up. Paying fees through the PowerSchool Parent Portal has been delayed on the Revtrak end, but that modification has been created and payment of school fees should be forthcoming.

All the pieces are in play for RevTrak. It will just be a matter of adding schools as they are ready over the course of the 2015-16 school year.

Target Completion: March 2016

Summer 2017 - Year 16 of the Tech Plan

Summer 2017 will see 731 computers replaced through the Tech Plan. That is the lowest number of computers replaced since 2008. Some 2017 Tech Plan school were bumped up to 2016 to aid the Soldotna School Reconfiguration effort which brought down the 2017 computer numbers.

Completion Date: Aug 2016

Broadband Assistance Grant from the State

The State of Alaska offered school districts additional financial assistance to bring schools up to 10Mb of Internet service. Our Internet service is provided in Soldotna and we disburse it to the schools primarily through data circuits leased through phone companies. So for us, that means upgrading data circuits carrying Internet traffic to 10Mb. Most of our schools were beyond 10Mb, but these schools were increased: Hope from 3Mb to 10Mb, Seldovia from 9Mb to 10Mb, and Tebughna from 3Mb to 6Mb. The amount of the award was $21, 687.07 for Feb – June 2015. We

also applied for, and received, $23,949.83 for FY 2016. For 2016, Marathon School from 6Mb to 10Mb was also added to the previous three schools.
Completion Date: After June 2016

Nanwalek School gets Apple ConnectEd grant – The Only AK School!

Nanwalek School was 1 of 114 schools in 29 states to be awarded a ConnectEd grant from Apple Corporation in fall of 2014. Basically, a 1:1 iPad implementation along with MacBooks, software, and substantial training for teachers, it is a phenomenal opportunity for the kids of Nanwalek. Teachers have their equipment and have begun receiving training. The iPads are in Nanwalek now and will be disbursed to students during a special ceremony August 18, 2015. The district has had some partial 1:1 opportunities before but this is the first whole-school implementation. Information Services is committed to support this opportunity.

Completion Date: August 2015 starts the first year of students with iPads.

E-Rate expertise moving from Information Services to Business Office

Business Office staff have been preparing to take over the E-Rate responsibilities for quite some time and now are fully trained and prepared to do so. Shelley Stockdale has taken over that responsibility. E-Rate subsidy to the school district is anticipated at about $1 million in FY2016.

Completion Date: August 2016

Security cameras

The present effort with the school security cameras is to configure the software with a map overview with each camera position notated. Having a school map view where the user can click on the camera feed they desire to see will allow those not as familiar with the school to be effective with the software.   The Borough Maintenance department has been instrumental in wiring and placing the security cameras in the schools, the count now at 915 cameras. The project is fundamentally complete, but training and support are ongoing efforts.

Completion Date: October 2014 for all schools.

Upgrade Aruba Wireless network district-wide

We submitted for Category 2 funding through the FCC E-Rate program for a replacement of our wireless access point and controllers district-wide hoping for a summer 2015 install. As of July, our application hasn't been reviewed. Our request is likely to be approved, but installation will be pushed back into the school year, or possibly next summer. The delay will certainly complicate and delay the installation.

Target Completion Date: May 2016

Microsoft Windows 10

We are hopeful for a relatively early implementation of Windows 10 district-wide. Our Microsoft Surface Pro tablets are Window 8.1 and our laptop and desktops are Windows 7. Corporate customers are often slow to update operating systems but we would like to unite under Windows 10 as soon as we reliably can.   Windows 10 is scheduled to be released July 29, 2015, however recent information released indicates many of the pieces needed for enterprise customers like us will be substantially after that date.

Target Completion Date: August 2016 (at least for half of the schools)

Gradual move to Microsoft System Center for operational support

Eric Soderquist has written many of our tools and procedures we have in-place to support our department. When the district went to PCs in Year 2000 no such tools existed. Today much of that functionality we need is built into Microsoft Service Center.

Target Completion Date: August 2016 (at least for half of the schools)

Exchange 2016 and Lync 2016

Both are key to our success and as available will be a priority for implementation.

Target Completion Date: June 2016

Upgrade to EDULOG transportation routing software

There is a major upgrade to the EDULOG software being implemented this summer.

Target Completion Date: August 2015

Upgrade to the Educate standards-based grading software

There is a major upgrade to the Educate software being implemented this summer. Educate is the grading software in use by River City Academy, and possibly others.

Target Completion Date: August 2015

PowerSchool Parent Portal to have parental consent forms

The PowerSchool parent portal will have parental consent forms online.

Target Completion Date: December 2015

PowerSchool screen for Common Quarterly Assessments (CQA)

This new screen provides a new view for teachers and will be a better way for them to track quarterly assessments. Jordan Chilson developed the page this summer and will revise with feedback from teachers in the fall.

Target Completion Date: October 2015

New results from Alaska Measure of Progress (AMP) test

If the state doesn't provide a tool that allows teacher access to detail testing information then the district will need to create the tool ourselves. Until we know the form of the testing results will take we won't be able to design a solution, if it is necessary.

Target Completion Date: August 2016

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