School Board Update on Technology

Jeff Brazee, Director of Technology

March 22, 2022

In this update

Highlights from the Last Four Months (November 2021 – February 2022)

1. **A new addition to our service portfolio**
   a. **Telephones**

      Support for desk-based telephones has moved to the Technology Department. This shift represents a natural transition as district phones are largely VoIP (voice over Internet Protocol) phones, which connect to our network.

2. **Infrastructure upgrades update**
   a. **Firewalls**

      We've selected a vendor for our firewall replacement project, and will move forward this spring to begin those upgrades. Federal E-Rate funding will cover over half the cost of the new hardware. This project will help us better identify, and respond to, digital threats outside and inside our network.

   b. **Wifi access points (APs)**

      We've expanded the density of our Wifi APs around the district to better support the Wifi needs of students, teachers, and staff.

3. **Staffing update**
   a. **Department reorganization**

      To better serve the technology needs of students, staff, and families, we undertook the process of examining and changing the department organization. This reorganization has allowed us to decrease response times and increase coverage for all operational aspects of technology around the district.

    b. **New staff members**

       We are excited to welcome Amos Doughty and Dakota Wilson to our team as district technicians. Both team members come to Mt. Blue Regional School District with many years of technical experience and a focus on customer service and support.
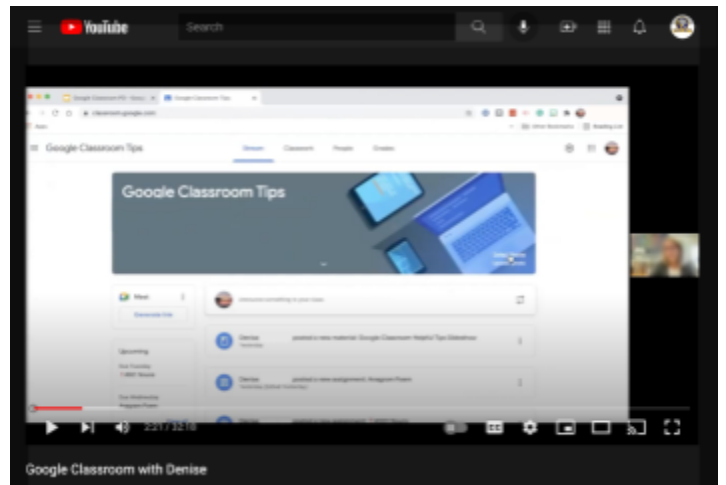
4. **Technology Professional Development (PD) and Training**

    a. **Calendar**

       Technology Coaches (classroom teachers with an interest in instructional technology) and Martha Thibodeau, our District Technology Training Coordinator, continue to create regular opportunities for teacher professional development.

    b. **YouTube channel development**

       Technology Coaches have continued to add new videos to our Technology PD and Training YouTube channel.

Planning for the Coming Months and Years

5. **Challenges/concerns**

    a. **Team space**

       Options for office, storage, and work locations for the Technology Team continue to be a challenge. This has been a concern for many years and the need for a place to work at each building has intensified with the increase in the number of devices added to our district. Additionally, a central space at Mt. Blue Campus for the technology team is critical to the ongoing efficiency and communication of the department.