Network Upgrades

We are continuing with the long process of upgrading parts of the district network infrastructure with the help of ESSER Funds. To date, we have replaced the aging firewalls at Mt. Blue Campus, Mt. Blue Middle School, Cape Cod Hill School, and Cascade Brook School. These new firewalls allow us much greater insights into the types of traffic that flow into and out of the district. There are a number of networking appliances on order but our vendors continue to have supply chain issues which will delay shipments. This phase of the project will continue through the school year and next year should see more work as we utilize E-Rate funding to continue the work.
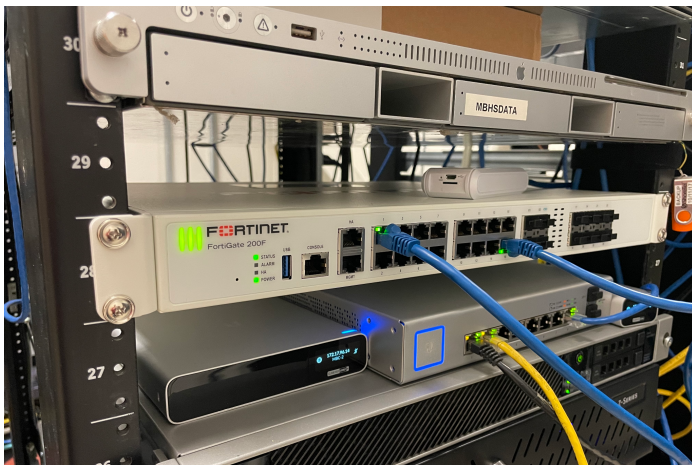
Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is the topic of the day with increasing reports of cyber attacks against private and public organizations in the news. With this in mind, we are starting work on a comprehensive framework for evaluating and minimizing our vulnerabilities as a district as well as our response to any incidents that may occur.

We already have a number of safeguards that have been in place or put into place over the evolution of our digital expansion, but to date there is no one document that evaluates all of our systems for potential vulnerabilities and mitigation strategies. This major undertaking will involve a great deal of collaboration with a number of stakeholders including district personnel, colleagues in other districts, legal counsel and industry experts.

Technology Coaches

In September, the board approved a proposal to pause the hiring process for a two year interim Technology Training Coordinator until next year so we are utilizing the Technology Coaches to step in for that role this year while also working on some special technology projects. Work has begun on organizing and planning a universal learning platform where teachers, staff, students and parents can go to get helpful information for all things tech in the district. Topics so far include a PowerSchool series for teachers and one for parents and a Google Workspace series. The group will also look at what professional development material has already been created and work to organize and consolidate it into an easy to use portal. The group is also going to start working on some Strategic Planning tasks related to technology use in the district.

Copier Upgrades

Unfortunately, we are no closer to implementing the district wide copier/printer upgrade that was planned last year. Our service contractor has not taken delivery of the equipment they ordered for our project and they don't have an estimate on when they think they will receive the equipment from the manufacturer. The delays are due to known supply chain and worker shortage issues that have plagued us for some time now. While we wait, we are continuing to contact the company for ongoing support of the aging equipment that we have now and are prepared to assist in the implementation as soon as the equipment becomes available.

At Home Internet Access for Students

Like last year, we still have a number of cellular based hotspots available for students to sign out from their school library. These are intended for short term needs such as a student being out of school for a short period of time for illness or for working on a school project. The high school has signed out a fair number of devices while the elementary schools are not seeing much demand for them. The librarians have worked together to send units to where they are needed and. As of right now, we have 70 devices available to be signed out.