

Technology Coordinator
Report to the Pittsville School District Board of Education
Monday, January 13, 2020



Clevertouch Displays – Due to my being ill over the winter break, I was not able to install the Clevertouch displays in the classrooms as I had planned. Instead, I will do as many installations as I can during the January 17 Inservice. Beyond that, I will be installing the remaining displays after school as I can.

Additional E-rate Funds – A recent decision by the FCC has extended the current E-rate program for one more year and has granted schools and libraries 20% of their original budgets. The current E-rate program was to have expired this year. The extension will apparently bring our district up to \$48,000 in available discounts for the 2020-21 school year only. This next year E-rate will pay for 60% of the cost of eligible network infrastructure projects, including upgrading our wireless network, network switches, network wiring, backup power supplies, fiber optic cabling, etc. Combined with up to \$30,000 available from the state's TEACH infrastructure grant, which pays for the remaining 40% that E-rate does not, we can potentially do some network upgrades *at no cost to the district*. We *can* apply these discounts to extending our network infrastructure into the new building addition, should the referendum pass. Any projects funded by E-rate must be bid separately from any building construction bids.

Beginning with the 2021-22 year we will have a new E-rate program with an increased budget that we will have 5 years to spend, just like the last E-rate program. The current E-rate budget was calculated based on \$150 per student; the new E-rate program will increase that to \$167 per student. With the previous 5 year program we were able to upgrade our network infrastructure, including replacing all our network switches, installing the current wireless network, plus upgrading all the fiber optic lines in our buildings, for which the E-rate discounts paid for between 60%-70%.

Needless to say I will be very busy working on the E-rate application process and potential vendors and service providers because we must have proposals and quotes for products and services, to be encumbered during the 2020-21 school year, by the end of February.