Technology Coordinator
Report to the Pittsville School District Board of Education
Monday, December 9, 2019

Chromebook Keyboard Issue – We've been having a problem with keyboards on the HP Chromebooks that we purchased over the summer. Some of the keys on the keyboards are starting to quit working. So far, I have had to send in over 30 Chromebooks since school started for warranty repairs. This is a known issue with this particular model, and after discussions with a rep from HP they are going to supply us with a small cash of replacement keyboards later this month as a short term solution. We will also be developing a plan to pull all remaining CBs (in groups) and do a mass replacement of the keyboards.

Clevertouch Displays – Our recent order for 10 more of these Clevertouch smart displays have arrived, and the principals have selected 10 teachers to have the new displays installed in their rooms. I am working with our sales rep to arrange for some online training, and I will be looking at installing many of the boards over the Christmas break.

Technology Concerns with Proposed Building Addition – I am looking at our existing systems such as telephone, public address, cable TV, wireless clocks, etc., and the ability to expand those systems into any new addition. We have very limited expansion available for additional phone lines with our current telephone system. One option is to update to a new phone system, or perhaps I can see if we can modify it with some additional equipment. The problem with that is the system is old and finding additional components that will work on our system may be problematic. As for other systems: I am meeting with a tech from the cable TV company to discuss expansion. Preliminary test of our wireless clock system indicates that signals from the current transmitters will extend to the new addition, but if after construction, the signal cannot penetrate any new walls & roof structures we may need to purchase an additional transmitter. We also need to consider tie-ins with our existing PA; do we move the PA control board in the ES to the new ES office? Currently, the PA system control board is still in the old office as there is a considerable expense to move it. Finally, what considerations are there to connect the fire alarm systems?

Cloud backup for google accounts – With ever more of our data being stored in Google Cloud we need to look at adding a backup/archiving solution so we have better access at restoring and archiving our user's data. The current backup solution that Google already provides is extremely limited and does not provide a good system for long term archiving of our important data. The best solution I have so far found is called Backupify, which is a cloud backup solution that offers great controls and options for restoring deleted or damaged data, plus long term archiving. An annual subscription will cost about $2,150 and will backup all accounts (including students): Gmail, Contacts, Calendar, Drive, Team Drives.