

Technology Committee Meeting

February 14, 2018 • 3:30 PM
Manteno High School Lab N23

Minutes

In attendance: Brent Zhorne, Kevin Crosby, Lindsay Fetherling, Rob Meadors, Jake Emerson, Nate Short, Matthew Glenn, Gale Dodge, Roger Schnitzler, Kristi Van Zeyl, Carrie McCann, Stephanie Kaack, Dan Christ, Tom Steele

- 1) Tech Dept updates
 - a. Tom & Stephanie will be attending the Skyward International Conference in FL next month. Stephanie is being honored with a “Leader In Excellence” award.
 - b. We are gradually distributing the HP computers that were donated by State Farm. They are replacing the 2010 Bytespeed computers in classrooms and offices.
 - c. Skyward will be performing a major update to new servers and doing a database tuneup the week of Spring Break.
 - d. Spring Break projects include 1) Rewiring two closets in the MS, 2) Reconfiguring WiFi network to provide redundancy, 3) Upgrading Skyward
- 2) Copier Contract
 - a. Our copier lease is done in December 2018
 - b. We anticipate putting an RFP out this summer for copier replacements
 - c. This contract will likely also include our printers
 - d. Carrie Randolph from Proven attended
 - i. Provided a breakdown of all machines and their current meter readings
 - ii. Discussed finisher options to consider for future contract
 1. Pro finisher is about \$3000 more per device
 - iii. Questions to consider
 1. Do we relocate any devices?
 2. Should more devices be added? If so, where?
 3. Should we change device size?
 - e. Assemble an exploratory committee made of reps from each building to determine copier/printer placement and features
 - i. This committee will be comprised of members from the tech committee
- 3) Layton ServiceDesk is no longer meeting our needs
 - a. Looking at other options with features that better meet our needs and cheaper
 - b. Tom and Dan had a demo of Vision HelpDesk
 - c. Has all the major features we need plus many more
 - d. Cost is less than half what we are paying annually for ServiceDesk - approximately \$450/yr.
 - e. Cloud based - accessible from anywhere
 - f. Product has free 30 day demo, but we would have to start paying after 30 days. Tom and Dan recommend waiting until after Spring Break to start the demo with approval at the April Tech Meeting
 - g. Committee agreed to proceed with the change
- 4) SAN replacement
 - a. The SAN, also known as our “private cloud” makes up our primary data backbone. It runs Skyward, our phone system, our voicemail system, our antivirus system, Reading Counts and more.
 - b. The warranty on the system expires in May 2018 and can no longer be extended.

- c. Parts for the storage array are difficult, if not impossible to locate and obtain.
 - d. The Tech Dept has been working with Dell, VMware and Microsoft since September on a replacement solution.
 - e. Narrowed it down to 3 possible solutions
 - i. Solution A is to replace everything at a cost of \$120,000-180,000
 - 1. would last approx. 7 years
 - 2. Nate asked what other costs would we incur during this time?
 - a. 3 years maintenance upgrade ~ \$14000
 - b. Virtual SAN license
 - ii. Solution B is to replace the storage array and keep the existing host servers and network gear at a cost of \$50,000-80,000.
 - 1. SAN license cost - about \$5000/year
 - iii. Solution C is to move the majority of our operation into the cloud at a cost of \$1,300-3,500/month. We would keep some systems “on prem”.
 - f. Our needs are declining as we move more systems into the cloud. It makes no sense to allow for scaling.
 - g. Our servers will also be out of warranty, but parts and used-replacement servers are readily available in the gray market. This could result in higher repair costs down the road.
 - h. Replacing the storage array but not host servers would buy us another 3 or more years, giving the cloud more time to mature.
 - i. Moving everything to the cloud raises bandwidth concerns
 - j. If moving to cloud, all operations would be reliant on the CIPAFilter (single point of failure). Work around would be to install a direct connection via Comcast, bypassing the CIPAFilter at a cost of ~\$2200/mo AFTER E-rate discount.
 - k. Cloud hosting monthly cost will vary depending on how much storage and bandwidth is used.
 - l. Roger suggested take both Solution A & B to Finance committee and let them decide
 - m. Solution B is the most fiscally responsible
 - n. We are not ready for Solution C yet
 - o. Consensus was to present options A & B to the Finance Committee
- 5) Building updates
- a. Elementary School
 - i. Having discussions with staff about Promethean boards and their longevity
 - ii. Had discussions with staff about using the chromebooks for PARCC
 - b. Middle School
 - i. Google Hangouts currently disabled for all students. If we turn it back on, there needs to be some instructions to staff/students on proper usage
 - c. High School
 - i. Roger thanked tech staff for their assistance during Main Event.
 - ii. L11 switch gets loud - if the room temp is high, it will run louder
- 6) Future items
- 7) Other
- a. Website - Matthew questioned when to tell staff about the change in the website. Tom and Stephanie have initial startup meeting next week. Once we know more, we will send something out to staff. Probably will wait until after spring break.
 - b. Fiber project on hold until weather is better.
- 8) Adjournment

- a. Brent Zhorne made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Matthew Glenn. Motion carried.
- b. Meeting was adjourned at 4:19pm