



# CUSD INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT Report to the CUSD10 Board of Education

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# General Information

- ❖ Our entire department has been very busy with the beginning of the year activities to prepare all online programs to be accessible for our students and staff. Each year as technology progresses we are moving to more curriculum being implementing that require Internet access for online databases.
- ❖ All network servers at each district location will be updated to the latest operating system. Our current operating system is being phased out and a newer system at no additional cost will be implemented as quickly as possible. Our students and staff will not notice any appreciable differences in their day to day work.
- ❖ The Jefferson Elementary computer lab has been enlarged by removing two former offices that were no longer used. This lab will now be able to have an interactive board and projection system allowing students and teachers to use the existing technology much better. With the increased space we can now accommodate full classes to be able to use the facility at full capacity.
- ❖ The district website is in the process of being iPhone compatible for external devices such as smart phones, iPads or any other device that does not currently render the web page correctly. We expect this project to be completed sometime in November.

# Hardware and Infrastructure Update

- ❖ Installation of new wireless microphone systems for the CHS auditorium has been completed. This change was required by the FCC since the switch from analog to digital signals for television reception. We had not planned on changing our current system but by law we had no choice.
- ❖ Installation of new security cameras for Fletcher Gym and the surrounding locations. With the help of Mike Hollingshead and many others we were able to determine that there were some areas at CHS that were not being covered adequately by our security cameras. We are in the process of installing additional cameras on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the main CHS building and we have repaired any cameras not working properly. In addition to the cameras added we have had to replace two defective servers.
- ❖ Purchase of 20 new computers to allow us to implement the Windows 7 operating system. This purchase allows us to determine if there are any incompatibilities of this operating system with our software and hardware. All computers being replaced will be used at other district locations as needed. Any new systems purchased will only have Windows 7 as the operating system since Windows XP is no longer supported.

# Hardware and Infrastructure Update

- ❖ CMS has received replacement laptops on a wireless mobile cart since the 7+ year old systems were no longer usable. We have an ever-increasing demand for Internet access and the portable labs allow many more students to have the necessary resources available when needed without taking up valuable classroom space.
- ❖ The recently installed Promethean boards and netbooks have been installed and used by our students at an ever-increasing rate. We have had a very good response from our teachers and students on this new technology and those teachers that were not fortunate to receive the equipment are asking how they may obtain the hardware.
- ❖ New servers at both CMS and DIS have been installed and configured for our network. Derek Turner (Network Supervisor) has begun the process of replacing the outdated equipment with the server operation system called SUSE Linux. Since the older server operating system (Netware) will be unsupported we have to upgrade as time permits. We expect to have about 50% of our building locations updated by the end of 2011.

# Software Update

- ❖ The new Lightspeed Internet Management solution has been fully implemented. This system has many functions such as e-mail Spam control, Internet content filtering and now a newer feature we are testing called MyBigCampus. MyBigCampus will allow our students and staff to interact with each other in a controlled environment on the Internet much like Facebook but with supervision and content being filtered. Teachers can add classes, students, assignments and messages for their students. The program also allows students and teachers to upload files so that they can retrieve their data from anywhere with Internet access. Please let me know if you would like a demonstration of these features. MyBigCampus is only being tested by a small number of teachers until we can determine how best to implement for additional staff and students.

# Professional Development Update

- ❖ Attended the annual Illinois Century Network (ICN) meeting in Springfield Illinois. The meeting topic was mostly about how the money awarded to the ICN will be used to create a much faster and less expensive Internet connection for all of their constituents. The ICN was awarded \$62 million dollars to build a new state-wide network for schools, libraries etc. through federal ARRA funding. We currently pay no additional cost for our Internet access and this new funding should increase our Internet speeds substantially thus allowing us to do more online activities.
- ❖ Our Technology department hosted a training that Mr. Jeff Bridges from Haddock education technologies presented about the Promethean boards. The training was specifically on how to troubleshoot the equipment and setup of the accessories. The training was very beneficial for everyone.