Glenbrook District 225
Technology Committee Minutes – September 15, 2011

Members Present: Shein, Thimm, Ptak, James, Bretag, Pryma, Riggle

Members Absent: Regalbuto, Hammer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m.

Review of 2011-2012 Projects

Mr. Thimm presented a brief review of the 2011-2012 projects.

Software Applications

1.   Student Information System - The district is continuing to work with MIG for the continued implementation of SchoolLogic. A new build will be received around September 15 and a plan for the resolution of known issues has been established.

2.   Business Software – Mrs. Siena is hosting vendor presentations starting September 28 to begin the selection process.

Website Conversion

Kentico has been selected as the Content Management System (CMS) for use in the design and building of the new website. Mrs. Geddeis has been working with Robin Konlon and Associates on branding navigation and design. Focus groups will be held in October to gain feedback on the initial design. Proposed launch of a new website will be January 2012.

Library Software Conversion

The Follett Library software conversion was complete and the library staff at both schools have been trained. Feedback from Mr. Bretag and Mr. Jakes indicated that there are no problems or concerns and the software is running well in the environment of both schools.

Second Internet Service Provider

Cogent, the identified second provider, cancelled the contract. Comcast will now become the second provider at a similar cost. The desired redundancy will be present.

Content Filtering

The new filtering system was installed at the end of the school year. – Project complete

Voice over IP Readiness

Installation of VoIP telephony was completed for both high schools this summer. Digital telephones remain in classrooms and will be replaced on an individual as needed basis with VoIP telephones. The District 225 network is now PoE enabled.

Electrical and AC Upgrades

Construction projects to address electrical and HVAC concerns were successfully completed this summer.

Wireless Access

Tracking of WiFi coverage is continuing. Access points will be added as needed and balancing will follow.

Network Wire Management

Work is progressing throughout the school year.

GBN Fiber Connection Maintenance

Meetings with the Northbrook network manager were held. Work will continue on the project through the school year. Mr. Shein suggested the use of T1 lines as a backup until the work is completed.

GBN-GBS New Fiber Connection

Mr. Thimm reported that he is currently working with the villages to assess possible options in shared fiber build out. He is currently meeting with Amy Ahner of Glenview and Rich Kramer of Northbrook.

Technology Data Closet Cooling and Emergency Power

Self-contained cooling racks were installed in closets with the largest temperature control issues. The GBN IDF6 switch equipment was moved and rewired. The GBS MDF has received upgraded cooling and GBS IDF 10 has now been activated.

Servers

The RFP for the replacement of server resources has been prepared. Product demonstrations and pilots have been conducted. The committee discussed financing and agreed that a three-year lease with a one dollar buy out option was the most desirable. The district could then have the flexibility to explore possible options at the end of three years instead of being forced to roll into new equipment at the end of the lease.

Storage Area Network (SAN)

The RFP has been prepared and product demonstrations and pilots have been conducted.

Software

Backup server and storage equipment are in need of update/replacement prior to the deployment of the CommVault Simpana 9 software. The equipment is being addressed as part of the server and SAN refresh.

Virtual Desktop Technology

The VDI pilot will be conducted after the server and SAN upgrades have been completed.

Broadcasting Department – Phase 2

Phase 2 will be delayed until more is known regarding the proposed solution from Apple and the continued needs of the broadcasting departments. Meetings will be held in the near future.

District E-Mail

Dr. Riggle provided a rationale for the need to consider changing the district e-mail from Microsoft Exchange to Google Gmail. A discussion was held reviewing current security risks with Microsoft Exchange and those posed by Google Gmail cloud storage. Continued conversations with Google representatives, as well as documentation provided by the company, addressed the district's concern with ownership of content. The district will also be able to archive and retrieve in the same manner as Exchange. Based on the academic merits for staff and students that come with Gmail, the district will pursue a plan to convert from Microsoft Exchange to Gmail.

Technology Budget for FY 2012

The budget for FY 2012 was reviewed. Note was made that approximately $27,000 was not carried over from FY 2011 and may be needed for the purchase of backup software and hardware. An increase of $27,000 was recommended as an increase to the FY 2012 budget and approved by Mr. Shein.

District Goals

Work will soon begin on district goals. No work has been completed on a long-range financial plan for the refresh of technology resources or a disaster recovery plan.

Future Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is November 17 at 7:00 a.m. in the Spartan Conference Room at GBN.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.