

Hopkinton School District

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To: Mr. Chamberlin and the Hopkinton School Board

From: Matthew Stone

Date: April 2, 2010

Re: Report from the Technology Director

Updates on recent and current projects

The upgraded Budgetsense server has been installed, and all financial functions have switched over to the new hardware. There have been some minor changes due to the new software, but the upgraded speed and reliability of the new hardware has already been both an improvement to productivity and a vast upgrade in redundancy and safety.

The NutriKids Point of Sale system has gone live, and has been technically very solid since launch. Kitchen managers and the food service director have ready access to detailed sales data. Since installation, the system has been very easy to support from a technology standpoint.

I am working with high school administrators and guidance staff on the 2010-2011 master schedule. Schedules will be distributed to students prior to the end of the year, allowing the guidance staff time to tweak course selections for students who need changes.

Technology Tools and Instruction

We use several technologies as key instructional tools in various classrooms. One example that is relatively new to us is the interactive whiteboard. Installed in one middle school and one high-school classroom, these become the centerpiece of a classroom. Combined with a student response system, we can engage students who are already drawn to technology. The student response systems allow for quick checks of student understanding, and a new feature now allows for self-paced questions.

We also offer many other technological tools for classroom use. Nine classrooms at the middle high school are equipped with ceiling-mounted projectors. While we have offered a mobile cart with a projector for many years, teachers find that technology resources that need no setup or preplanning are far more useful. Teachers can easily project a document, website or image in response to a student question; the ease of

use means that teachers can focus their energy and attention on teaching rather than overcoming technology hurdles.

Many teachers at MSS and HMHS are using a wiki hosted on an internal server as part of their class. Some are using it as a way for students to share their work and research; I particularly enjoyed seeing the wiki pages put together by the digital media students at the recent Celebration of the Arts. Elementary classrooms are using wikis to share resources they have found on web that cover the American Revolution, weather and the Solar System. These sites are protected by only being visible within the district, but allow the students and teachers to easily collaborate and publish materials.

As we look forward to next year, we are looking to continue to expand these initiatives, as well as add technology in the library media centers. Already, students can checkout iPods, digital video cameras and netbooks; we are looking to improve support for research, movie editing, podcast creation and publishing.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Stone