



Technology Accountability Report 2020-2021

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the Information Technology Services' direction and relevant matters in WRSD through the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Personnel

- Nothing to report.

Projects and Matters

- Continued rollout of digital classroom display replacements. Currently 246 classrooms have been retrofitted, and we have reached a deployment target of 90%+ teaching spaces. The project remains ongoing as we look to support new school capital projects and ensure that all classrooms are receiving similar technology over the anticipated display lifespan.
- WRSD is now in year 10 of Google Workspace and year 3 of Microsoft 365 for all students and faculty. WRSD's cloud platforms were able to support our teachers, learners and central office processes as pandemic related absences persisted throughout the 2020-2021 school year.
- Completed a two year long Identity and Access Management project automating accounts from the Atrieve HR platform through to as many district wide systems as possible. Our system wide Staff onboarding process has been streamlined, offboarding has been automated and site transfers and assignments are updated at least daily.
- WRSD owned communication fiber optics were installed linking Aurora, Frank Maddock, and Evergreen Schools', with a segment buried near the location of the H.W. Pickup School at a cost of \$299 000. The service is bidirectional, allowing 3 sites (eventually 4) to operate as a single campus creating significant IT efficiencies such as shared bandwidth, a simple campus router, and unlimited speeds between sites.
- In conjunction with a similar 2019 -2020 private fiber project, the combined \$415 000 capital outlay has a projected return on investment of 75 months. This will be improved with the eventual addition of Powerhouse Campus. The District will also reap further cost

constraints as school bandwidth demands inevitably increase. (ie. The ROI will only improve over time)

- With Google cancelling their free and perpetually *beta* Cloud Print service, the District deployed a replacement printing service.
- Director of IT presented to Alberta Technology Leaders in Education on Sender Policy Framework, DomainKeys Identified Mail, and Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance, 3 key email security frameworks and issued a collegial call of action for Alberta Districts to implement.
- A global chip supply shortage coupled with international logistic issues (Covid and non-Covid) prevented WRSD from acquiring wireless network gear, and delayed many other shipments. The result of this is increased pressure on IT to replace the remaining District wireless gear in ~36 months.
- The VoIP telephone project was technically completed in June of 2020, however last year's Technology Accountability Report was unable to provide a report showing stable reductions and savings for a school year. In a full 12 month cycle, WRSD is now saving ~\$95 000 on Telus, paying ~\$11 000 a year to Chinook's Edge for the shared system, and reducing telephony spend by ~\$84 000 per year.

Telephone Costs by Month

