

Glenwood Community School District Technology Department

Board Report for December 13, 2021

Tech Tickets:

For the month November 3rd through Dec. 6, the technology department has received 93 requests for assistance. That does not include problems that were fixed from walk-up and email traffic.

Winter SRI and Dropout Report:

The Winter State reporting window is now open, with certification due Jan. 28th. This year's State Dropout Report window is also open and certification of that is due Dec. 15.

PowerSchool:

Over the weekend of December 4-5th we conducted the migration of PowerSchool from a server on our premise to a PowerSchool hosted server. This allows us to improve the security of our student data, improved maintenance, and better take advantage of updates more often. This migration also includes our joining of the Grant Wood AEA PowerSchool Consortium. As described in previous reports, this relationship will be a cost savings to the district in future years.

With regard to the migration, there were some issues preventing users outside of our school network from accessing new URLs on Monday, Dec. 6th. Those issues were resolved by the evening of Dec. 6 and access should mostly be restored for all users. In my discussions with Grant Wood AEA, our district has handled this migration better than most. **I would like to credit all of our stakeholders for being engaged in this process. It is evident that they have taken district communications seriously, acted on instructions provided to them, and provided extremely helpful feedback that has allowed us to pursue remaining issues in as timely a manner as possible.**

Website:

In good news the website had been fully functional for a relatively long span of time. However, on Nov. 30, there was a brief outage of the district home page, while all the sub pages remained stable. I am awaiting a report to see if Proworks was able to discover any causes from that outage.

At this time, because we are trying to conserve hours we agreed upon for Proworks to diagnose our site stability issues, we have not proceeded on other items that need repaired. One of these items is the connection between the rSchool activities calendar and the district calendar on the website. Therefore, only activities (mostly fall) that were set up by Travis up to the time of his passing are populated. I am trying to figure out how I can access that feature as well as attempt a workaround, until I can gain full access to those features. <https://www.hawkeyeten.org/public/genie/470/school/451/> remains the most accurate schedule of activities for the district at this time.

Network Site Survey:

We recently took advantage of a free site survey to test our Wifi in our 4 main school buildings. The findings of this survey serve multiple purposes. First, we have learned things from this survey that have allowed us to make immediate changes to the system to improve signal quality. Second, one of the main issues often experienced is interference between the 2.4ghz and 5ghz signal used by various devices throughout the district. Therefore, we have set out to identify devices that are only 2.4ghz devices (older technology) so that we can plan for their replacement creating the possibility of turning off the 2.4ghz signal and eliminating the interference. This will take time as some devices are easier to replace than others. Third, this information will help us as we continue to progress through our network upgrades via E-Rate funding, where replacing Access Points will become a priority in the 2023-2024 school year.

Paging:

Much time has been devoted to researching our options for paging in our school buildings as detailed in the proposal listed elsewhere in the agenda.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Jedd Taylor
Director of Technology, GCSD