**IT Report October 2022**

**Summary:**

* IT flood relief for Students
* K-12 iPad replacements
* Gr. 4-12 laptop replacements
* Printer replacement (flood repairs)
* District server upgrades
* Wireless access points upgrades
* IP phone system upgrades

**IT flood relief for students:**

To date we’ve placed 335 laptops with students impacted by the flood. 135 of these came from the Ministry of Education and 200 from the District. We will continue to place laptops as requested through our schools.

**K-12 iPad replacements:**

iPads continue to play a strong roll in School District 58, particularly in Kindergarten to grade 3. The large catalogue of “Easy to Use” applications have made iPads a favorite learning tool for Teachers and Children.

iPads are used in Secondary Schools as they are particularly useful for Math, Science, and Language courses.

This year we purchased 200 new iPads to retire old iPads that are no longer supported. We currently use 650 iPads in our schools. See the below chart for details:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Added iPads** | **School Name** | **Total number of iPads** |
| 10 | DVES | 45 |
| 20 | CVES | 70 |
| 55 | MBES | 59 |
| 30 | MCES | 99 |
| 30 | NCES | 78 |
| 20 | MSS | 102 |
| 10 | SCIDES | 10 |
| 10 | JAES | 102 |
| 15 | VFES | 15 |
|  | PSS | 45 |
|  | Bridge | 0 |

**Grade 4 to 12 laptop replacements:**

Laptops are widely used in our School District. Most of these are placed in Laptop Carts in groups of 10 to 30. The Carts make it possible to share between classes.

Each year we upgrade our laptops in a scheduled 4-year rotation. We currently have just over one thousand student use laptops. This year we purchased 215. We use both touch sensitive and standard form laptops. See the below chart for details:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Added Laptops** | **School Name** | **Total number of Laptops** |
| 15 | DVES | 85 |
|  | CVES | 65 |
| 15 | MBES | 75 |
|  | MCES | 70 |
|  | NCES | 60 |
| 115 | MSS | 375 |
|  | KLC | 18 |
|  | JAES | 0 |
| 30 | VFES | 90 |
| 20 | PSS | 125 |
| 5 | Bridge | 5 |

**Printer replacement (flood repairs):**

During the flood, our 2 hardest hit locations, Merritt Central and the School Board Office, had 3 damaged multi-function-printers; most people just call them photocopiers. A big thank you to MSS, Diamond Vale, Merritt Central, and the Community Learning Centre for the loan of your printers as we shuffled devices around during this time.

Thank you to all those who worked to get these devices replaced. Our staff worked hard with the Ministry Insurance Program, and with Ricoh, to navigate supply shortages caused by the pandemic and ships sinking in the Ocean.

Flood damaged printers have been replaced and all schools are back in full operation with their designated printers.

**District Server Updates:**

Several years ago, the Ministry of Education introduced the NGN, or Next Generation Network. This is a province wide fiber network connecting the Provinces Education sites to the internet. For us, the speed of the network meant that we could centralize or school servers. We no longer have any servers in our schools. They are all located in our DataCentre.

This year we updated 3 servers. These servers typically host between 5 and 10 virtual servers each. We presently have 6 Dell PowerEdge rack mounted commercial grade servers. It isn’t like the movie Matrix, but these servers make it possible for us to automate task intensive processes and store vast amounts of data for the school district.

One of our newest projects is our move to Laserfiche. Laserfiche is software used to transition our District’s records to digital storage. Much of our records were damaged during the flood. With the help of Ricoh, we have been working to recover and digitize our records.

**Wireless access points upgrades:**

Internet access has become ubiquitous. It is everywhere. To achieve this, we have roughly 120 wireless access points (or WAPs) located through our schools. You might have noticed some small white panels on the walls or ceilings with flashing lights on them. This wireless network technology continues to get better with upgrades. This year we are updating about 80 of our original 120 WAPs. This will increase wireless speeds and coverage in all our schools.

**IP phone system upgrades:**

Phones have radically changed over the past few years. Many of you have Digital Cell Phones. In business, a desk phone is still highly used today though. A few years ago, we migrated our phone system from copper wire to an Internet connected system. This system has saved us thousands of dollars per year. Most of our phones though are digital phones connected to our Internet Phone System. We have started replacing those phones with IP phones. This means that, like your computer, each phone gets an IP address so that it can connect to the internet directly.

We have just purchased the last 70 IP phones. This will result in further savings as we connect the last of our schools to a single interactive phone network. Locations being updated are: School Board Office, SCIDES, MSS, and PSS. The rest of our schools are already connected.

That about sums up our summer projects and projects for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have any questions?

Thank you.