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Directions Newsletter Regular Meeting of the Board – January 2019

Technology Status Report

Presented by Rob Geiger, Manager of Information Systems

Vision: We create secure, safe, reliable, and easy-to-use Technology Information Systems that support the learning needs of students and staff.

Mission: We plan and deploy technology services and maintain Technology Information Systems by providing friendly support in a timely manner.

Hardware Plan Summary (to end of June 2019)

- All teachers will have access to a Windows desktop.
- Chromebooks have been provided for student use.
- All Office Managers have new Windows desktops.
- Bus garage staff will have access to a Windows desktop, laptop, or other device as required.
- Facilities managers and facilities staff will have access to a Windows desktop, laptop, or Chromebook as required.

Server Cluster Refresh

Our primary server cluster (including Storage Area Network) has reached its end of life and will no longer be supported by HP. Our server cluster contains approximately 40 virtual servers including our web and portal servers as well as our authentication servers and some of our Domain Controllers. Many of these virtual servers are absolutely critical for Chinook Information Systems.

We have engaged vendors and have received proposals for the purchase of a new server cluster and this purchase will be made in early 2019. The install will require extensive planning and coordination and will be completed in the months following the purchase.

Our server cluster computing needs are not anticipated to grow in the future because so many of our services have moved or will be moving to cloud-based solutions. For this reason, we are purchasing a server that will fulfill our current needs, greatly reducing the cost.

Hardware: Future Plans

The recent hardware refresh required a significant budget allocation. Our current Chromebooks have a life expectancy of 4-6 years. This is typical and expected with technology.

The best financial practice for technology infrastructure is to financially plan for hardware renewal every 5 years by budgeting every year so that the cost is regular and expected. We recommend this practice begins with the next budget because we will need to replace hardware 2 years from Fall 2019.

Network

We have had network bandwidth upgrades in 2017 for Fairview, Central and Irwin schools, and overall.

Disaster Recovery

In order to ensure our Azure Disaster Recovery is functioning properly we hired IBM to do an independent test of our Disaster Recovery systems. The tests completed successfully and the report was presented to our auditors.

We have performed three tests of our automatic shut-down procedures, but none have completed entirely successfully. We will be testing again after our new server cluster is installed. We have relocated our CommVault backup server outside of our data centre for increased risk mitigation. The next step in risk management and mitigation is to consider the purchase and installation of a back-up generator.

Personnel

The Technology Information Systems department staffing consists of seven technicians, administrators and specialists, along with the Manager of Information Systems.

Financial Report to November 30, 2019

Presented by Rod Quintin, CFO

Revenues: The annual operating grant decreased due to an enrollment decrease, which was somewhat offset by increased rates in the funding formula.

Overall year to date revenue of \$19.96M is 24.5% of budget.

Expenditures: Years to date expenditures for most areas including Governance, Administration, Instructional and Transportation are closely aligned with budget planning. Plant Operation and Maintenance costs are cyclical in nature dependent on weather and maintenance activity.

Overall, the year-to-date expenditures of \$22.28M are at 25.9% of budget.

Education Sector Strategic Plan

Presented by Sharon Mayall, Curriculum Coordinator and Kyle McIntyre, Director

In the Board's leadership role for the Division, they have committed to an annual strategic planning process that is aligned with the provincial education sector plan. As part of the yearly planning cycle, the 2019-2020 school division strategic plan is being updated to identify priorities and give direction to our schools as they do their planning for the upcoming school year. The Division level plan will be finalized and will be presented to the Board for approval at their meeting in February.

The provincial education sector plan was developed collaboratively with public school divisions, Catholic school divisions, Conseil des écoles fransaskoises, First Nations, Métis, Ministry of Education, school boards and students. The goal of the strategic plan is to enhance the experience and achievement of all Saskatchewan students using a Student First approach to focus our work on what matters most...the student.

Administrative Policies

Administrative Policy 410.13 – Safety: Use of Tobacco and Smoke Related Products has been updated to identify that all school buildings and school grounds operated by the Division shall be free from smokeless tobacco and tobacco smoke, and marijuana smoke at all times.

Electronic products such as electronic cigarettes, cigars, and pipes as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products are prohibited in all schools and on all division properties.

In addition, these products are prohibited in all buses and other kinds of vehicles, either contracted or privately owned while traveling to or from school related or Division related activities.

Administrative Policy 511.10 – Employee Code of Conduct: Use of Tobacco and Tobacco Related Products has been updated to read:

Tobacco, marijuana, electronic products such as electronic cigarettes, cigars, and pipes as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products are prohibited in all schools and on all division properties.

In addition, these products are prohibited in all buses and other kinds of vehicles, either contracted or privately owned while traveling to or from school related or Division related activities.

Administrative Policy 808.4 – Fifteen-Passenger Vans: Annual Deployment has been updated to read:

- 4.1 Vans will receive safety inspections at one of the Swift Current, Shaunavon or Maple Creek Bus service centers over the summer months when they are not required for school use.

- 4.2 Use data from the previous year will be analyzed to determine the need for the upcoming year.
- 4.3 Vans will be re-deployed to designated schools based on the determined need for use in consideration of the remaining useful life of the van. The objective will be to maximize the value of remaining useful life for Chinook.

Maverick Students Discuss Control Theory

Students & staff from Maverick High School visited the Chinook Board to discuss the importance of Control Theory (Choice Theory) in their personal lives and the day-to-day school operations. Students who have recently completed this locally developed course shared their most important “take-aways” from the course.

**Photos available on our social media platforms*