

Chinook Technology Status Report

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

Laptops and Desktops

Our current set of laptops and desktops for staff should last until 2024, when they will have to be replaced. This should allow us to purchase hardware that will support Windows 11 before Windows 10 is no longer supported in 2025.



Chromebooks

Student Chromebooks will need to be replaced regularly every year as they reach the end of their life. This started in 2021 and will be an ongoing budget requirement.

We purchased 1500 Chromebooks in September 2022 when the price normalized.

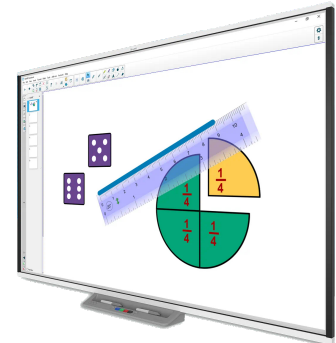
New Copiers

As part of our regular refresh and lease program with Xerox, we have started to replace photocopiers in our schools at no additional cost. The replacements will be complete in spring 2023.

SMART Panel Needs and Subsidies

SMART boards were first installed in schools over 15 years ago. Most of those devices are reaching their end of life and need to be replaced as they fail, if they haven't been replaced already. We now replace SMART boards with SMART panels and televisions. Replacements have been taking place frequently over the last 5 years, but this will need to continue.

The Hardware/Software committee approved a limited number of subsidies for these replacements, based on student enrolment.



Video Surveillance Cameras

Video surveillance cameras have been installed in many Chinook schools. In some cases these devices were installed over a decade ago and need to be replaced. The replacement requires complete rewiring to every camera location in addition to camera replacement. Some of these projects will require significant resources and time to complete.

Additionally, some schools who have never had video surveillance have requested installations.

Phone Renewal Plans

We are piloting a new phone system developed by E-MetroTel. This technology will allow us to continue to utilize our legacy NorTel equipment and allow us to implement new phone hardware. This update will potentially save us hundreds of thousands of dollars.

SECURITY

IBM Security Audit

IBM was contracted to complete a Security Vulnerability Assessment in June, 2022. As part of the report, IBM recommended a number of security changes. Most of these have been completed and the remaining recommendations should be addressed by the end of the 2022-23 school year. IBM was also contracted to do a security audit of our Azure (Microsoft cloud storage) environment in preparation for future Azure usage.

Security audits should take place regularly to ensure systems are properly secured. Ideally, a 3rd party assessment should take place every year.

SSBA Working Advisory Group (WAG) on Cyber Security



The Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) formed a WAG to investigate Cyber Security concerns in Saskatchewan School Divisions. As part of their work, the WAG will produce a set of recommendations for cyber security practices for all Saskatchewan school divisions. The WAG's report and recommendations will be presented in fall 2023.

In addition to the SSBA WAG, the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials (SASBO) IT group developed recommendations for school division security. These three minimum security recommendations are as follows:

- Implement Multi Factor Authentication for high-value targets (IT staff, senior admin)
- Implement DNS Firewall (DZone)
- Implement Phishing awareness programs

Chinook has implemented all three of these security recommendations.

Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) and Network Uplift Plans

We have implemented MFA for all TIS staff and DLT members. In the near future we will be implementing MFA for teachers and additional staff.

Work is being done this school year to extend the MFA protection to all staff files by moving most data to cloud storage. This requires extensive changes to our file storage practices but when the work is completed, Chinook logins and data will be more secure.

Financial Report to November 30, 2022

Sharie Sloman, CFO

Overall year to date revenue of \$22.63M is 26.1% of budget. Year 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 \$24.1M are at 25.9% of budget. The operating deficit is currently at \$1.47M which is on track with the budgeted shortfall of \$3.86M.

Shaunavon Public School Students Entertain Care Centre Residents

Mrs. Lundsten's Grade 3 class ventured out into the cold on an afternoon in December to drop off their handmade Christmas cards at the Shaunavon Care Centre. The students also treated the residents with an encore presentation of their Christmas Concert performance.



Cabri SRC Plans a Christmas Craft for Students



The Cabri School Student Representative Council members planned a Christmas craft for elementary students and then spent time over three lunch hours crafting with any students in grades K-5 who wanted to make their own personal reindeer. Everyone had a lot of fun and the SRC did a great job!

Backstory: cree word of the week

By Anthony Nickel, MCCS Teacher

Maple Creek Composite School and Chinook School Division launched a "cree word of the week" initiative in the fall of 2022. Every week, a cree word, meaning and annunciation is shared in a variety of ways with students, staff and families at schools around the division. The idea for the cree word of the week came from a few different areas. Predominantly, it is a way for me to culturally get back in touch with the Indigenous side of my family. My mom's side is cree, but I wasn't raised culturally as a cree person. So when I was given the role of First Nations/Métis education at MCCS, I became immediately drawn to the idea of using language as a form of reconnection. Secondly, in the developing relationship between Chinook School Division and Nekaneet Cree Nation and the work done around inclusion of Indigenous students, language was one of the identifying factors in helping with inclusion.

Further, I have noticed companies and parks around the province (Cameco and Fort Walsh, for example) feature similar language connections and felt that one within the school division would be a nice feature. Lastly, it is my hope that these words have started lively conversations around supper tables on language and its vital importance to culture, any culture. I want to thank the division for supporting this initiative!

