October 19, 2009

To: Board of Education Members

From: Joanne Rathunde, Director of Technology

Subj: Tech Tidbits

Equipment orders have been received for items on the stimulus fund grant worksheet. We are well underway with deployment and students and teachers are pleased to see the new equipment arrive. Our new PowerSchool server may find its new home earlier than originally planned as our current server is experiencing aches and pains in its senior years and may not make it to winter break. Good news is that the folks at Pearson are offering an awesome pricing structure for installation, software upgrade, and migration of data to the new box. Included in this offer is the option of choosing a weekend so that we won't experience any down time at all. In addition to waving the costly weekend service, they are waiving the per student fee, which in our case, is a $1650 savings. They are also cutting the basic fee by 50%.

I attended the first of many meetings regarding the upgrade of our long-range technology plan (posted on our website). The new plan is done completely online and looks to be somewhat easier than the previous plan structure. Over the coming weeks, we will survey teachers and parents to gather information to help in the writing process. Our deadline is roughly the middle of March so we have our work cut out for us in the coming months.

As is the usual process, we have begun the process of e-rate for the coming year. The first meeting to file our form 470 was Friday the 9th. That starts the ball rolling and this will be an ongoing process all year long.