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Board Report - Technology
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Looking Back

The K20 project to upgrade the speed and reliability of our network connectivity will bring a 500 Mb/s connection to the district by way of fiber cabling being run between the district's data connection point and a facility located in Ridgefield.

This project involved some complicated engineering as well as construction permits from three different governmental agencies. The last official update was all things were proceeding as planned. I have seen some of the construction work happening along the route from the I-5 bridge, across our local bridge and then into the district, It is one thing to talk about someday getting a great connection like this, but it is quite another to be around and actually see this long awaited project go in the ground. It is, at the risk of sounding overly subjective, pleasing.

What's Current

For the next few weeks, as you walk around the campuses there's an extremely good chance that you'll run into a cabling installation crew somewhere in the district. E-rate funds are governed by revised and more articulate set of rules this year and so we've been able to access additional funds and to use those funds in ways a bit more flexible than we've been able to do before. New rules allow funds to be used for the installation of networking specifically for the adoption and growth of wireless infrastructures. This in turn has allow us to provide the cabling necessary to extend and improve our wireless network.

The largest portion of this project is the professional installation of a dedicated Category 6A cable into each classroom as well as hallways, offices, etc. We'll be able to provide much more reliable, flexible, and appropriate kinds of systems. And we'll be using brand new state-of-the-art cable runs to provide the data backbone which a modern school demands.

Looking Forward

We have done a lot of groundwork in preparing for an upgraded video camera security system. To bring this project closer to a reality, we will be installing the wiring infrastructure this fall to support an expanded and modernized system. Once the camera network has been installed, we can begin building out a new digital system that will carry us forward into the next generation of school security systems.

Our current system will be left in place and "run along side" the new system. The older system uses hardware that, while great at the time of purchase, has become outmoded because of the gigantic leaps in technology that have occurred since its installation. We explored the possible migration scenarios involved with such a project and found that our best plan was to install a new system rather than try and migrate analog devices into a digital system. While that can be done, the resources necessary to provide this backward compatibility was not a good use of those funds. Instead, we are building the digital system with an eye toward future growth and standards-based solutions. This new system will be a great improvement over what we've had available.