Technology Director
Board Report
February 26, 2013

**Technology - Hardware**
With all this talk and interest in iPads and the Internet, it is easy to overlook the other things that our staff and students have been using in the classroom. Access to web-based resources has certainly changed the playing field for us all in education. But there are a lot of unsung heroes in the world of technology that I think sometimes bear mentioning. It seems like it was not that long ago when our classrooms had neither Internet access nor phones. Those were the days when workplace envy centered around things like Post-it notes and "the good kind of transparent tape" and a teacher's clout was measured by how thick the stack of ditto blanks they had stored. As we consider the current status, we still have those items and many more. Notable among them has been the almost ubiquitous use by our staff of classroom projectors.

Our current classroom technology minimum configuration includes a relatively current computer, a projector, document camera, printer, and telephone. I am surprised sometimes as I visit different spaces to find a teacher that hasn't had a printer for years - probably because it fell of my radar years ago in some flurry of other needs and the teacher has learned to work around the inconvenience. As embarrassing as that is to me, I mention here as a compliment for the staff that simply put those kinds of problems to the side and continue to push forward without complaint. I believe that the number of classrooms not meeting this minimum standard has become increasingly small. The annual technology inventory report for OSPI is coming due soon and so I'll have another chance to make an orderly, coordinated, and realistic picture of the various technologies we have in the hands of our staff and students.

**Wireless Network**
If increased pressure can turn coal into a diamond, then I think right now the technology staff is probably shinier and harder to crack than any other person I know. We have in place now a new wireless controller which has been performing admirably since it's deployment on February 11th. As announced to the staff in one of a myriad of "Wireless Network Update" emails the new system is...

> one which will have more and finer controls, a higher throughput capacity, the ability to grow in size as we grow, support for our current access points (APs), the ability to take advantage of the advanced features found in the newer APs, and brings new capabilities overall. And, best of all, it will have ongoing development and support! Besides this new controller, we will also have an official support contract so that certified HP engineers can do the initial setup and providing ongoing assistance. Finally, we will also get several more APs to improve overall coverage and efficiency.

While the part about the initial setup being handled by HP was not covered in our support contract, I was able to get through that part with enough success that HP has been able to make a number of suggestions and recommendations which I've been more than glad to apply to our system.

We currently have 38 access points (APs) deployed around the district and the coverage, while not yet ideal, is much more comprehensive and a whole lot more functional than it ever has been. I thank Mark for providing the resources necessary for what we've done. Which isn't to say it is all done! But we have a solid foundation now from which we can build with new confidence.

In short, the new system is here and I think the staff and students are greatly pleased by the changes. While this new network will need to undergo many additional changes, the base configuration we have running is meeting the needs

of most our users as it is today. Any other complications we may wish to add will only be to our benefit. I am really glad that the new system did so well from the get-go. In a word, “Phew”.