Technology Director
Board Report
June 12, 2012

Looking Back
Skot Barker has been my right hand man for over two years and I am sorry to say that he has resigned his position with the district. He will be taking advantage of other opportunities available to him and so I wish him well as he moves into whatever is next for him. I will be working with Mark and Julie McKee to fill this technology support vacuum.

What's Current
Staff members that have been using an old Mac as their primary computer have had their workstation replaced with a new machine. The feedback I have received from this has been, unsurprisingly, quite positive. While there is a learning curve that goes with a new computer (new operating system, new versions of software like MS Office), the improvement in performance far outweighs any transitional woes. Joel Shaw (my half-time assistant) had the responsibility of managing these replacements and has done an outstanding job anticipating each user's needs, moving their files over, setting up their printer, getting the interface configured in a pleasing way for both the user of the computer as well as the requirements of our network structure, and more. It is great to be able offer staff a new computer and have the transition go so smoothly. One reason (of many) was the frustration felt by staff who had an iPad but their computer was too old to sync between the two devices. All in all, it was a win-win-win I think.

Looking Forward
I'm sure that Mark's report will have a considerable amount of information regarding the purchase of seven iCarts (as we are calling them). These are rolling carts stocked with 20 or so iPads that are for use by students. This "special project" is our first strong move toward narrowing the gap between our current technology offerings and a 1-to-1 computing environment. It is our intention that these iCarts will be able to be moved to any location on campus and connect to our wireless network. They will be available for students to use in ways that we cannot even anticipate at this time.

While iPads are still relatively new (they were only introduced two years ago), we believe that a personal computing device is an important part of transforming how students learn and how teachers teach. We will clearly be learning as we go, but are excited to get a project like this off the ground and into students' hands for next year. This kind of project will provide us with lots of opportunities to learn and grow as we gain experience. Even with the amount that we don't currently know, I am very excited about this opportunity.