Technology Board Report - February 2026
Director of Technology – Steven Hopper

Plans for this summer are well underway in the DCG Schools Tech Department, and this month, we're asking for the approval of three bid packages related to this work. Two of these packages leverage the 60% discount available through the federal E-Rate program. First, the district is recommending approval of the Communication Innovators bid in the amount of $133,922 for network equipment and licensing. This will add some new switches and renew our licensing on all network equipment for the next 5 years. Second, the district is recommending approval of the Howard Technology bid in the amount of $42,284.00 for universal power supplies (UPS). UPS devices ensure that our network equipment stays online in the event of a power outage. The combined cost of these projects after factoring in our discount will be just over $70,000.

The third package being presented for approval will upgrade the paging, intercom, safety, and classroom audio systems at North Ridge and Dallas Center Elementary. Total recommended bid for both buildings comes in at $348,522.52. These improvements will begin the process of updating our elementary buildings to the Audio Enhancement EPIC system, which is already installed at all secondary buildings. Approving the project will also ensure that we're on the summer schedule for installation, minimizing impact on instruction. This project will be funded by SAVE dollars.

With it being legislative season, I'm also keeping an eye on several bills that could have a significant impact on our technology initiatives across the district. SF 2200 would raise the email security standards applied to school accounts. Our current tools available through Google would meet some of the new standards, but meeting all of the standards would likely require the district to purchase some additional cybersecurity tools. HF 2451 would make significant changes to K-5 digital device programs by placing a 60 minute/day cap on digital instruction with exceptions for students on IEP or 504 plans, assistive technology use, teacher-directed demonstrations, and dedicated computer science and technology curriculums.   As of the writing of this board report (2/18) both bills had been passed out of sub-committee but had not been assigned a committee prior to the end of funnel week. Please reach out with any questions on this, or other, legislation. Thanks for your continued support of technology integration efforts for our school district.