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To: SAU 50 Joint Board Members

From: Chris Russo, Technology Director

Date: April, 2023

### **Zoom Phone Project Update:**

- NPS was moved to Zoom Phone over February vacation week.
- SAU Office was moved over on 3/17. Training for CO staff was 3/16.
- MHT was moved on Friday 3/31 PA system received.
- GCS scheduled to be moved over Friday 4/28 (Vacation week- cabling)
- Rye - TBD - June, after school is out. Phones ordered & received



New Wallpaper on SAU Office Phones.

### **Data Center Hardware Upgrade:**

Data Center Servers: Purchased in 2019 as “refurbished” Original Processors are from 2016, now 7 years old. These servers are hosting critical services including Active Directory, DHCP, DNS, File Sharing, Print Services, Automated account management, Backup and Recovery, and Content Filtering.

This purchase will be shared proportionally, across the SAU.

I am working with 2 vendors currently to provide quotes, RTM, which the SAU has used in the past, and BlueSpruce Technologies, who I have worked with in the past. We will require 2 Servers to act as Hosts, as well as a data storage device. The price tag on these projects can be quite high, and I am working to scale back as much as possible to obtain the MINIMUM required hardware in order to keep the costs down. Paired with my strategy to get as much as we can out in the cloud, we should be able to come up with a cost effective plan.

### **Technology Committees:**

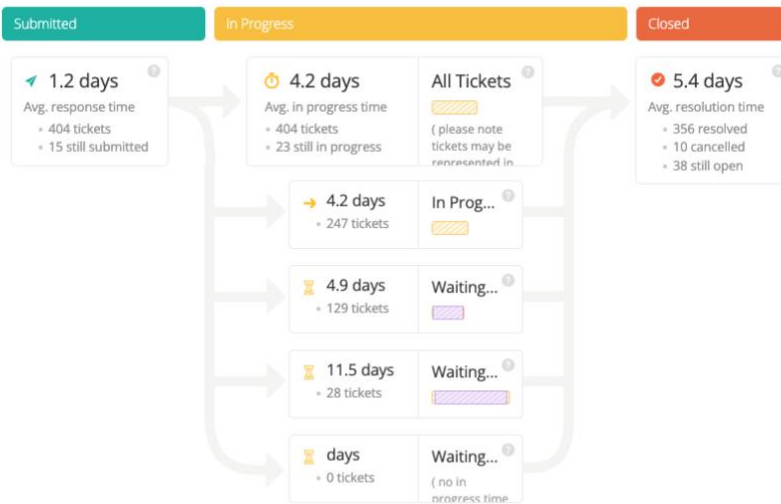
Groups in Greenland, RES, RJHS have continued to meet. Discussions around staff devices have led us to investing in the Macbook Air solution for Staff in 2023-2024. Instead of buying  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the devices each year, we will be using our staff device budget's to enter into a 4-year lease agreement with Apple to provide 65 staff devices at Rye and Greenland. This not only saves money each year, but allows us to recoup MUCH more \$\$ at the end of the lease. Current PC laptops get about 50-75\$ unit after 4 years. Macbooks will provide much more return on our dollar. Lease rate is 0.9%

In addition, we will be utilizing the same lease mechanism to replace student devices, so that all student devices are the same generation. We expect to receive top dollar for all existing equipment, which will be put into the general fund.

The Lease documents for Rye and Greenland are in the respective technology folders.

### **Ticket System Stats:**

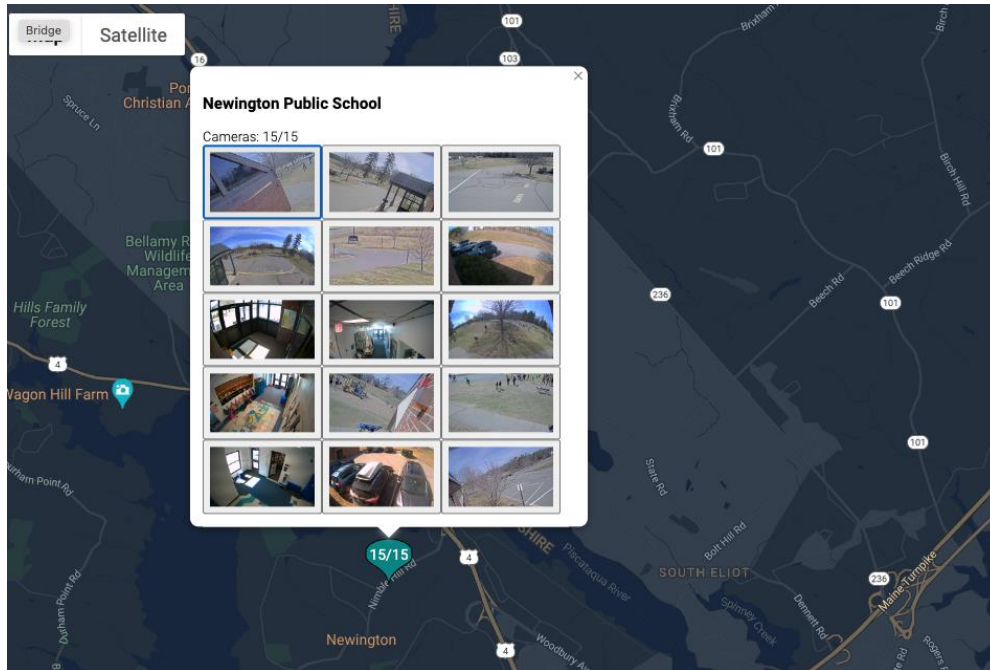
Ticket Pipeline Analysis ( shows time spent in each status, along with ticket routing for all workflows )



## SoLink Security Camera Systems:

(Newington / Greenland- Future MHT and Rye) I have located a cloud based provider to integrate with our existing / future security cameras. The Vendor is named SoLink, and they are a subscription based service that utilizes a small onsite storage device to store footage, but puts all of the processing and viewing of footage in the cloud, so that Administrators can access the cameras at any time, from any Location. There is NO additional hardware, servers, or storage needed, which plays nicely into our datacenter plan. The cost is comparable to the Licensing and Support fees of a traditional self - hosted software.

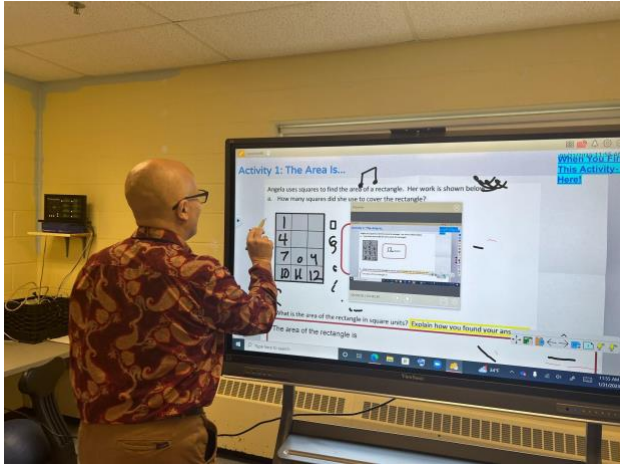
Systems have been installed @ MHT and NPS. Quotes are in the works for Rye and Greenland.



**Interactive Panels:** Chris Cooney, Rye Tech Coordinator has led his faculty through an extensive search for the next generation of interactive panels for classrooms. He has organized 3 demo days for Boards from ViewSonic and Newline. Both of these vendors offer boards with the same functionality as the Promethean boards, at a fraction of the cost. One of our major concerns was the lifespan and replacement cycle of the boards. Chris collected feedback from faculty, and provided multiple opportunities for teachers to get in front of the new boards and try them out. In the end, the Newline boards were the clear winner, and we have been working through quotes with vendors to line up a July purchase in Rye. The better pricing allows us to buy 6 boards instead of our typical 3, which also puts us on track to replace classroom boards every 5-6 years. We are investigating using a lease to replace all boards in a future year, so that all teachers are on the same generation of board.

Greenland is using a different approach to Teacher interactive displays, by utilizing their existing LCD projectors and pairing them with an Apple TV, and

an Ipad which will allow students & teachers to wirelessly connect to their projector and interact with content.





### First View Parent App:

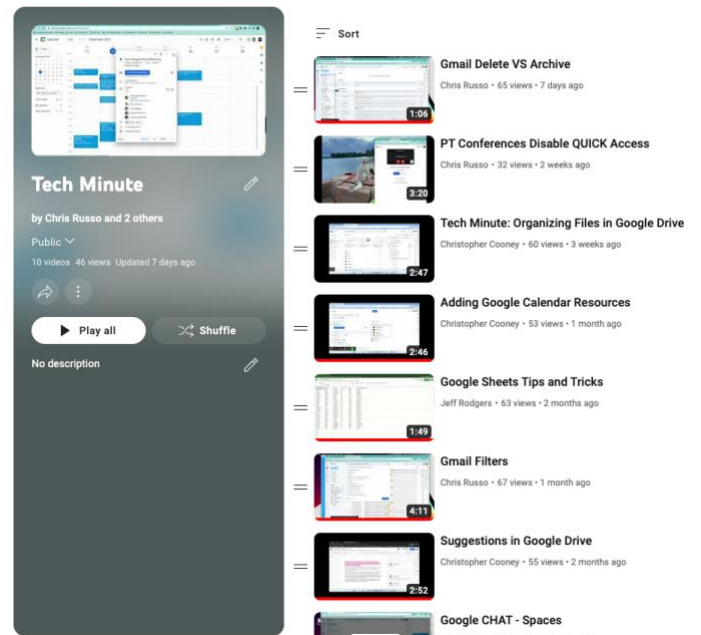
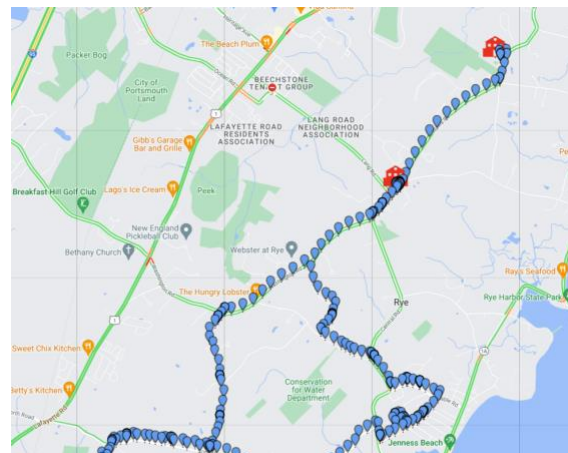
Parent training materials are posted on the technology department website, and cross posted on each school website. District code is **5GFS**

We currently have 162 users accessing the App. The feedback has all been positive.

### Tech Minute:

We continue to produce weekly training content featured in the [Tech Minute](#). Please check it out! The Tech Minute is a [youtube channel](#) featuring a 1 minute, easily digestible tech tip for faculty and staff. Our goal is to do 1 per week. They are low production quality, but the content is most important. My Technology staff has done a FABULOUS job helping me create content on timely and important topics. We are currently working under the theme of “Organizing your digital life” for the tech minute. This is allowing us to establish a baseline of skills that we feel every SAU 50 faculty member should have.

### Firewall:



Our district wide firewall is at the end of its useful life (retirement mode). It will need to be replaced in the next year, and is a big ticket item. Typically organizations that are our size have redundant firewalls, so that if one were to fail or lock up, (as ours did the other day) the other unit would take over. In our current, "1 firewall" setup, a hardware failure would take our buildings offline for 3-5 days, as a new piece of hardware would need to be purchased, shipped, installed and configured. I am working on quotes for redundant units.

Brief Outage this morning >

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**Chris Russo** <crusso@sau50.org>

Thu, Mar 23, 11:56 AM (8 days ago)

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to All ▾

Hi All,

I wanted to apologize for the brief internet outage this morning. Our firewall that protects all the buildings in the SAU locked up and needed to be restarted.

In case you needed proof - YES- Computers have a way of knowing that you are talking about them--- I was in a meeting discussing Firewall replacements with a vendor at the time!

GCS SRO **Nick Drew** will be happy to provide the security footage of the New Technology Director making the 100 yard dash across the Parking lot to diagnose and restart.

To my credit, I think it's probably 115 yards.

Sincerely,

**Chris Russo** | Director of Technology

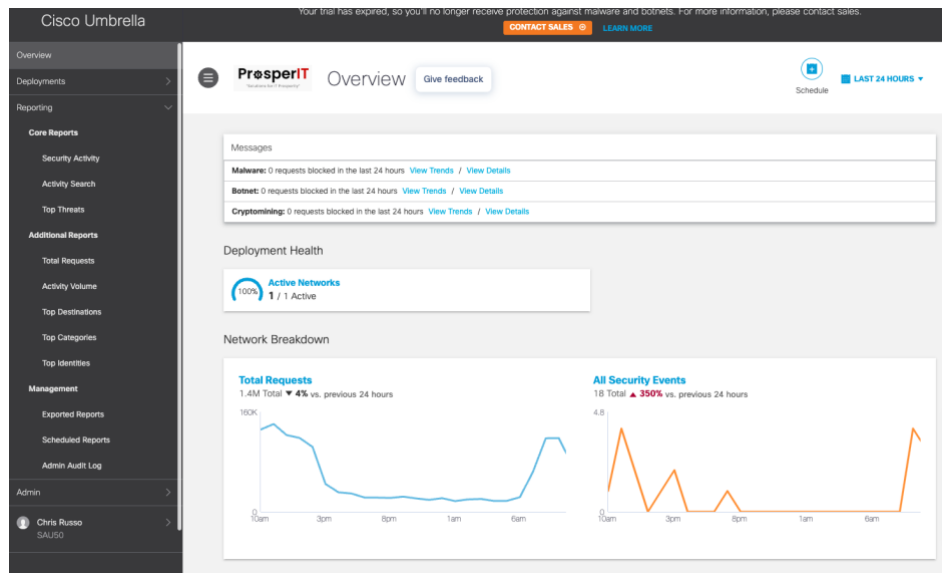
**a:** SAU #50 Schools | 48 Post Road | Greenland, NH

**e:** [crusso@sau50.org](mailto:crusso@sau50.org) | **w:** [www.sau50.org](http://www.sau50.org)

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## Content Filter Change:

I have obtained a quote for Cisco Umbrella, which is enterprise security and content filtering product. They offer DEEP discounts to EDU and the quote is roughly ½ the cost of the previous filtering product put in place prior to my arrival. We will be making this change asap. They have offered us access to the product for the remainder of the school year at no cost, if we are able to pay out of this fiscal year.



## Documentation:

We have completed MOST network documentation at this time. This project entailed building network documentation, down to the switch and port level, identifying all network devices, and documenting IP address, make, model, MAC Address of each device. This work is critical in order to aid in troubleshooting and disaster recovery.

## Backups:

I have pulled configuration backups from all 22 network Switches and stored them in Google Drive for future reference.

## MDF Mondays!

Scheduled dedicated time to assist building staff in clearing out all obsolete tech items that have accumulated over the years. This work will make room for new and current technology resources.

Below: Before and after at Rye Elementary School. The “before” photo is from the day Chris Cooney started.





New MDF being constructed at Newington Public School:



**SAU Wide PowerSchool Users Group:**

We have established a monthly Powerschool Users Group, which meets monthly and consists of the main office staff who deal with Powerschool. [Lindsay Greenberg](#) lead the group through the student registration process from Start to Finish, and created a handy cheat sheet for Administrative Assistants to reference. This group is allowing us to standardize and implement best practices in data entry, use, and procedures.