



## Key objectives

- Assess the District's current technology:
  - Equipment, infrastructure, plan and vision
  - Processes and services
  - Technology support
  - Technology delivery
  - Communication
  - Training / professional development
  - User perceptions
- Identify the gap between District processes and best practices
- Recommend improvements



## Project Approach

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### Organization

*Do we have the correct number of staff with the right skills?*



### Administration

*Do we properly manage and administer the technology we have?*



### Technology

*Do we procure and support the most appropriate equipment and systems?*



## Project Approach



- Collected and reviewed documentation
- Conducted an on-line end user survey
- Performed on-site review of the technical environment
- Visited sites to meet with various staff members
- Collected metrics on comparable districts
- Analyzed data from the above steps
- Developed recommendations
- Prepared draft report



## Key Findings

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- The District is hampered by aging technology, inadequate bandwidth between sites and limited wireless.
  - The majority of workstations (66%) and laptops (85%) are more than 7 years old. Almost one quarter (22%) are 10 years or older.
  - Connectivity between sites is leased 100 Mbps (150 Mbps at the high schools) requiring the District to implement servers in a decentralized manner.
  - Wireless is limited district-wide although the WAN and the end user devices will need to be upgraded to fully take advantage of wireless.
- From a staffing perspective, end users interviewed and survey respondents were consistent
  - IT department helps the District achieve positive results (85% agreed).
  - Staffing levels are inadequate (37% believed that staffing levels were sufficient).

## Key Findings



- While the district has recently implemented interactive whiteboards, projection systems, and document cameras in classrooms district-wide (thanks to a generous gift from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education), the workstations are aged and in some cases ill-equipped to take advantage of the technology.
- We compared Grosse Pointe Public Schools to peer districts.
  - Grosse Pointe compares favorably with 1.8 students per workstation and 763 students per IT FTE. While we did not obtain data on the age of workstations, our experience is that Grosse Pointe has older workstations on average than many of the comparative districts.
  - Grosse Pointe is one of the few districts surveyed that does not have a full time Director of Technology.
  - The District is also one of the few districts without a private fiber network; ownership of the network is not the issue but rather, it's the bandwidth availability.



## Key Recommendations

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- Establish a full time Director of Technology to oversee all areas of technology.
  - The District needs a leader who can devote significant **time and effort** to integrating technology into teaching and learning.
- Undertake a strategic technology planning process.
  - The planning process should begin with the vision for technology use followed by the development of strategies to achieve that vision. Key topics to be addressed in the planning effort include:
    - Vision
    - Strategies
    - Budget (likely resulting in a bond to fund)
    - Priorities
    - Professional development needs
- Address the performance issues associated with the current Wide Area Network in term of connectivity between the District and Wayne RESA.



## Additional Key Recommendations

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- *Review the current Disaster Recovery plan and update on a regular basis and enforce key IT policies.*
- *The District should implement a high speed District WAN via dark fiber leasing or through a District owned fiber plant build.*
- *As the District WAN performance improves, consolidate key resources at the District network headend.*
- *Implement alternate computing strategies such as thin client, desktop virtualization or enforce a desktop refresh policy of no more than five to six years.*
- *Develop a long range plan for the district's document imaging system.*
- *Engage in an HR, business, and curriculum process redesign and integrated system selection to maximize efficiency.*



## Next Step and Action Items

### Next steps



- Select the recommendations for implementation
  - All are important, but
  - Developing a strategic vision of how technology will transform teaching and learning in the district is paramount
  - Addressing technical issues without a plan for their use will not provide the intended results.
  - There are ways to expedite this process
- Assign responsibilities
- Monitor progress
- Perform another IT Assessment five years from now to benchmark against this review